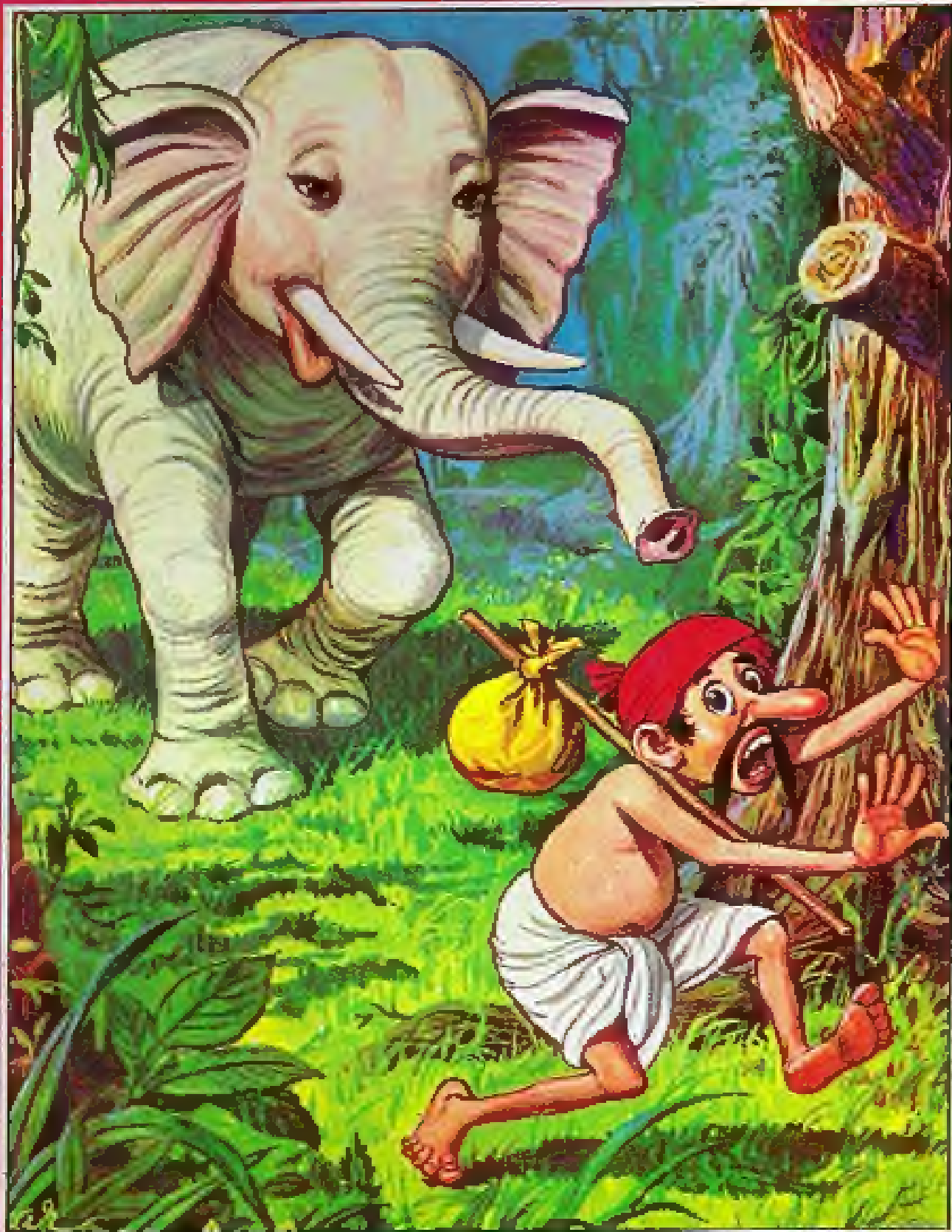




Jataka Tales

Elephant Stories

Vol. 558 Rs 25



Amar Chitra Katha: the Glorious Heritage of India



Jataka Tales

Elephant Stories

All living creatures die to be born again, so the Hindus believe. The Buddha was no exception. Legend has it that several lifetimes as a Bodhisattva went into the making of the Buddha, the Enlightened one.

The Bodhisattva came in many forms - man, monkey, deer, elephant. Whatever his mortal body, he spread the message of justice and wisdom, tempered with compassion. This wisdom, the wisdom of right thinking and right living, is preserved in the Jataka tales.

India has been called the story-teller of the world. It is her particular glory to have told the world story after entertaining story that illustrates the precepts of righteous living.

Amar Chitra Katha has already brought to the reader Jataka monkey stories and Jataka deer stories. In this issue we bring you elephant tales that will teach some of the truths that the Bodhisattva experienced in his numerous lives on earth.

AMAR CHITRA KATHA means good reading.
Over 75 million copies sold so far.

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Illustrations: Ashok Dongre

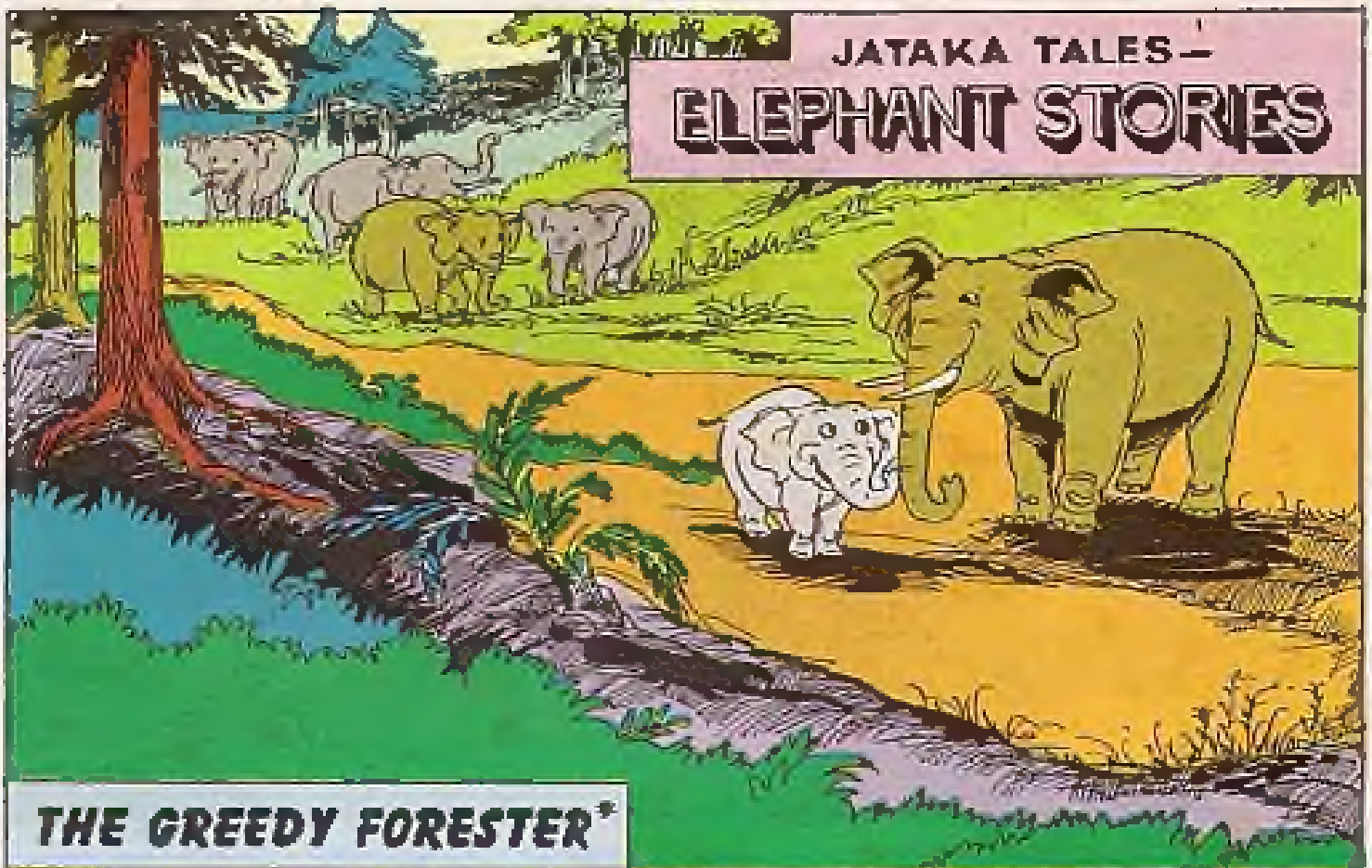
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JATAKA TALES— ELEPHANT STORIES



THE GREEDY FORESTER*

THE BODHIBATTVA ASSUMED MANY FORMS THROUGH MANY LIFE CYCLES, AND SO IT WAS THAT WHEN BRAHMA DATTA REIGNED IN VARANASI, HE WAS BORN AN ELEPHANT IN A FOREST IN THE HIMALAYAS.



* BASED ON SEELAVA NAGARAJA JATAKA

THE ELEPHANT GREW UP IN THE FOREST, WITH OTHER LITTLE ELEPHANTS.



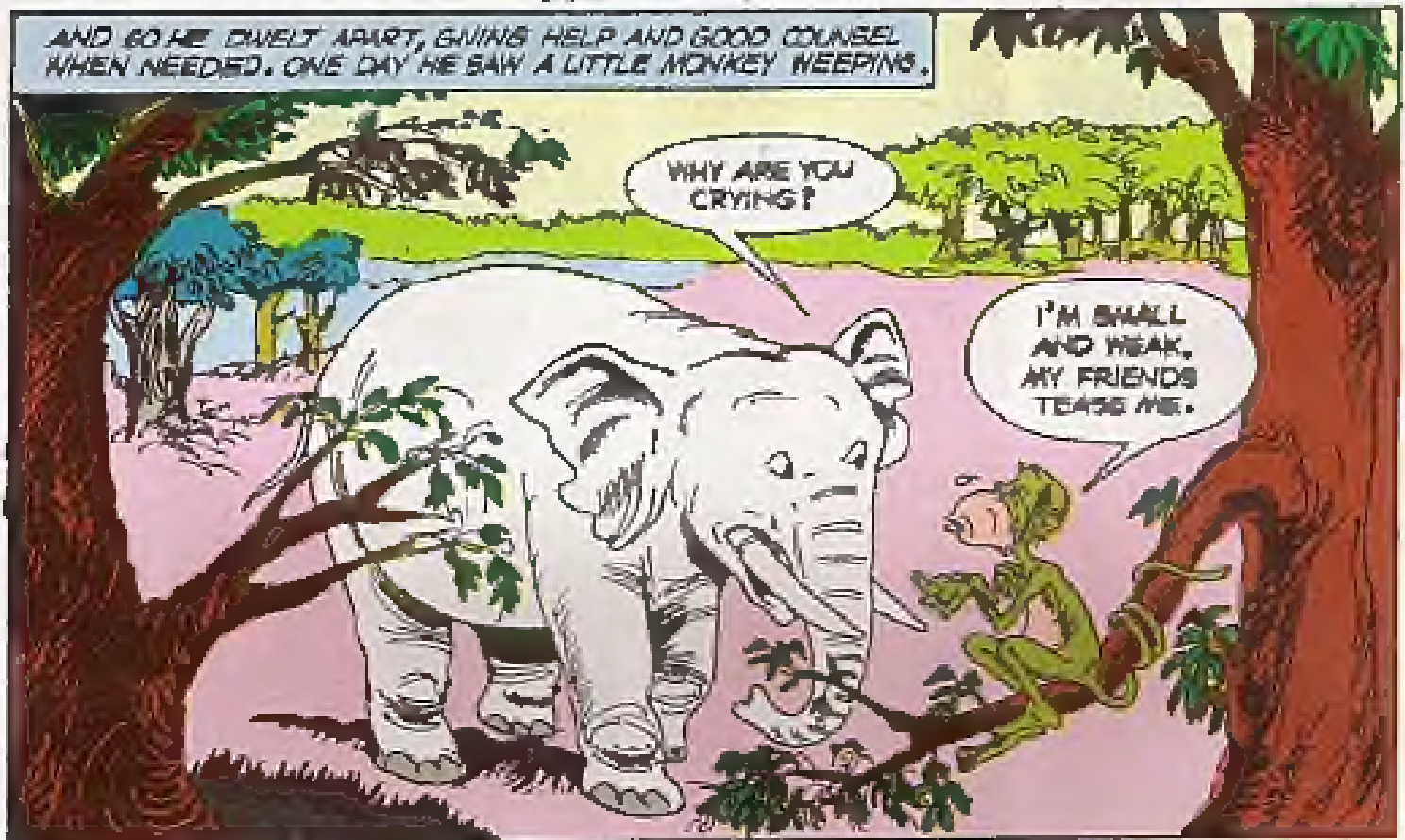
AS HE GREW OLDER, HE NOTICED THAT MOST OF HIS COMPANIONS WERE SELFISH, GREEDY, EVEN CRUEL.



THE WHITE ELEPHANT DECIDED TO LEAVE THE HERD.



AND SO HE DWELT APART, GIVING HELP AND GOOD COUNSEL WHEN NEEDED. ONE DAY HE SAW A LITTLE MONKEY WEeping.



HE GOT THE THOUGHTLESS MONKEYS TOGETHER.



MANY AN EVENING FOUND HIM ADVISING AN EAGER GROUP OF ANIMALS, YOUNG AND OLD. SOON HE CAME TO BE KNOWN AS GOOD KING ELEPHANT.

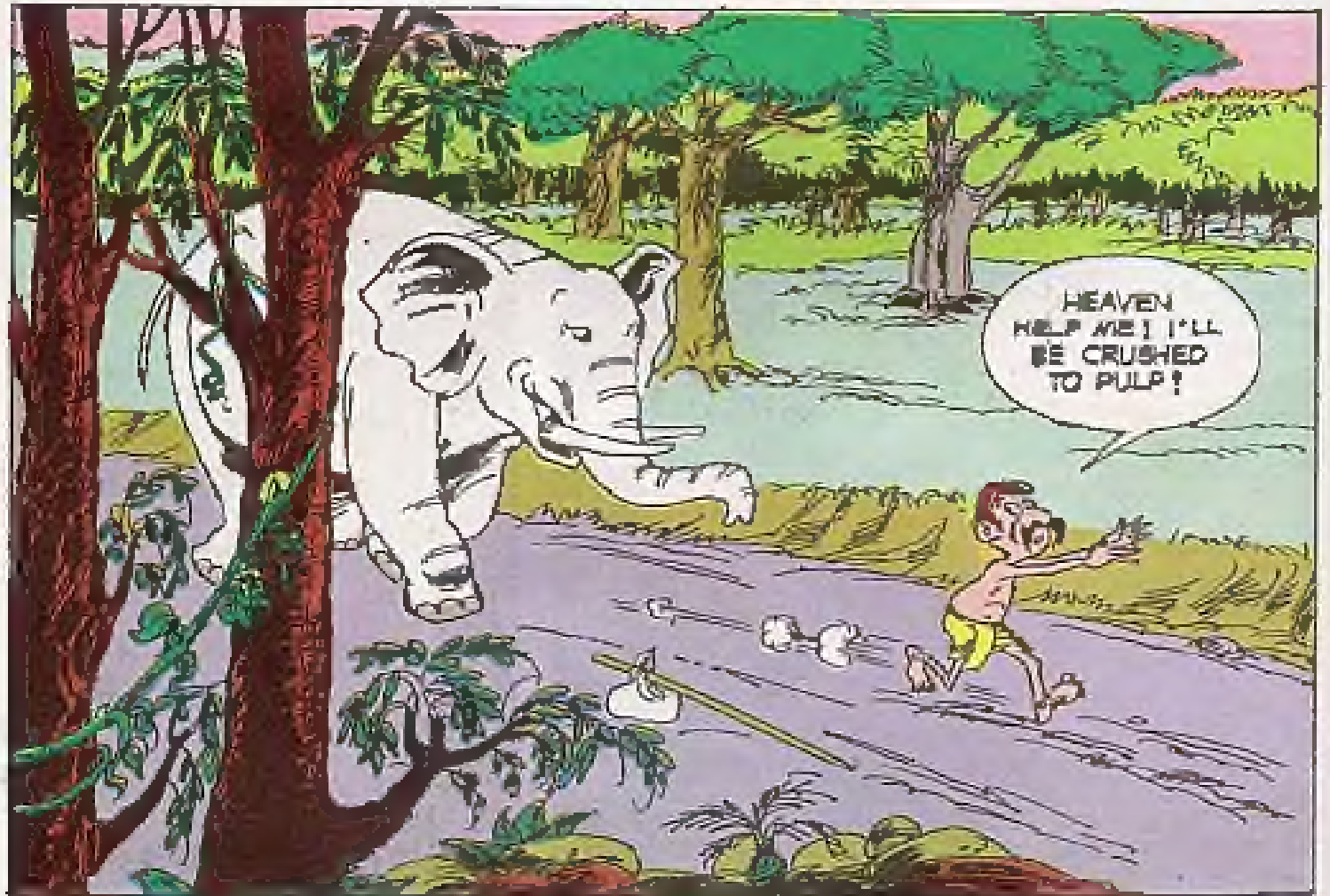
ONE DAY, A FORESTER FROM VARANASI LOST HIS WAY IN THAT FOREST.

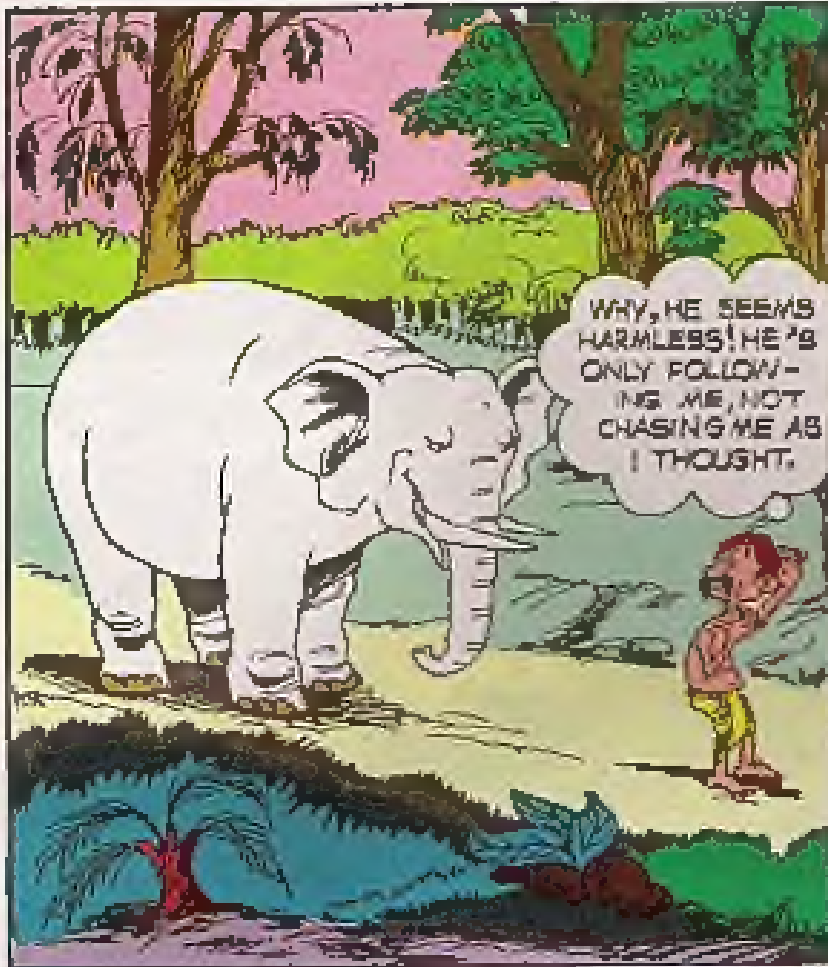


AS THE LIGHT GREW
FAINTER —

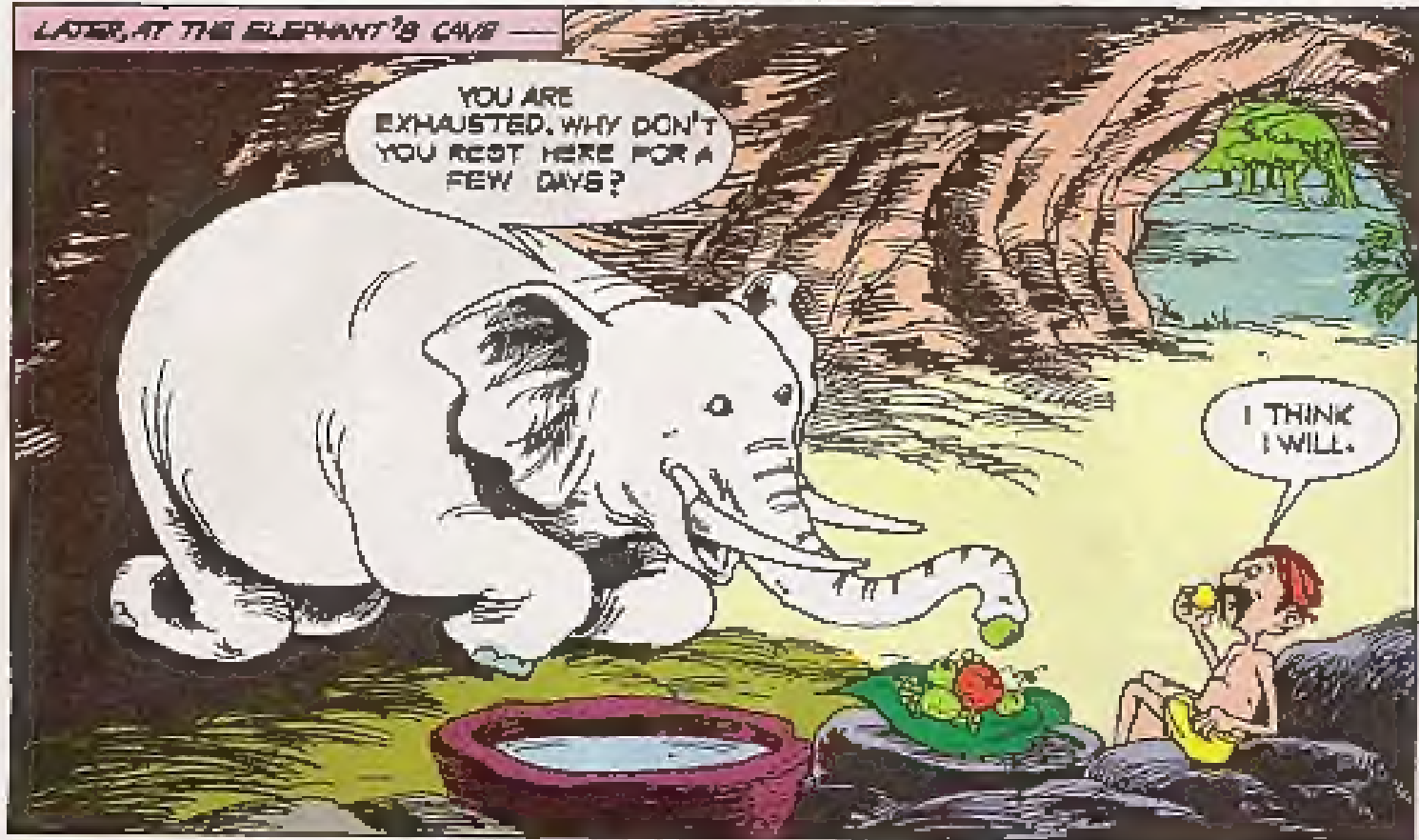


GATHERING COURAGE, HE WALKED ON.
SUDDENLY —





LATER, AT THE ELEPHANT'S CAVE —



YOU ARE EXHAUSTED. WHY DON'T YOU REST HERE FOR A FEW DAYS?

I THINK I WILL.

THE ELEPHANT'S DAY BEGAN EARLY.



I LIKE TO WATCH THE DAY BREAK OVER THOSE HILLS AS I BATHE.

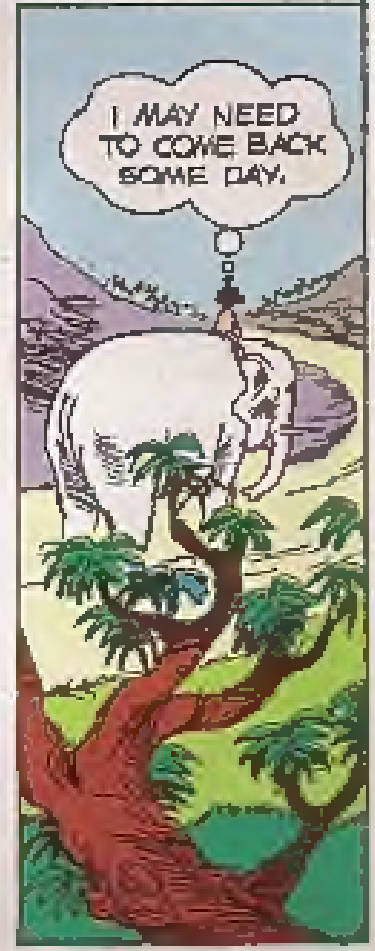
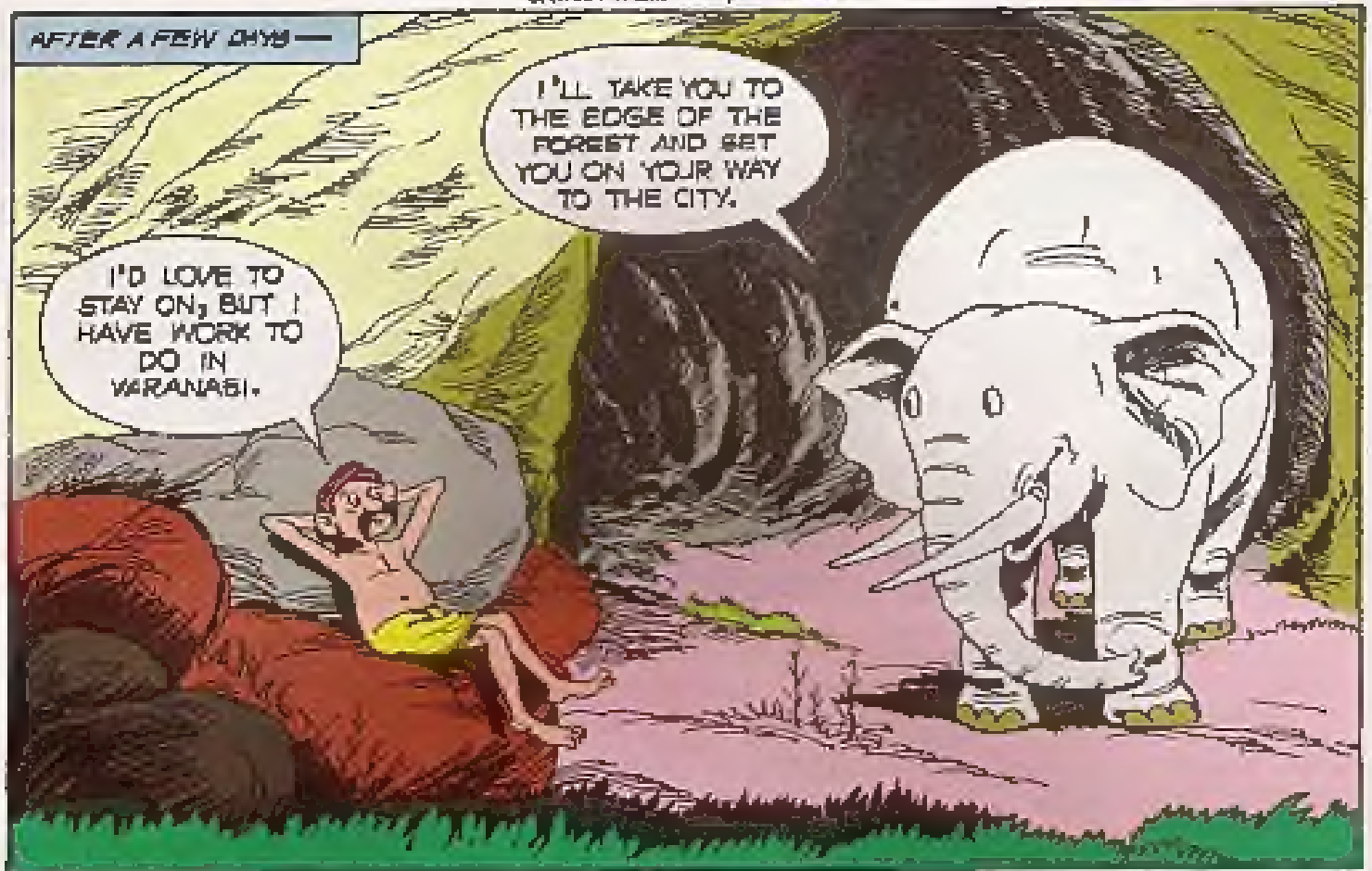
IN THE EVENING THEY WALKED TO A CLEARING IN THE FOREST.

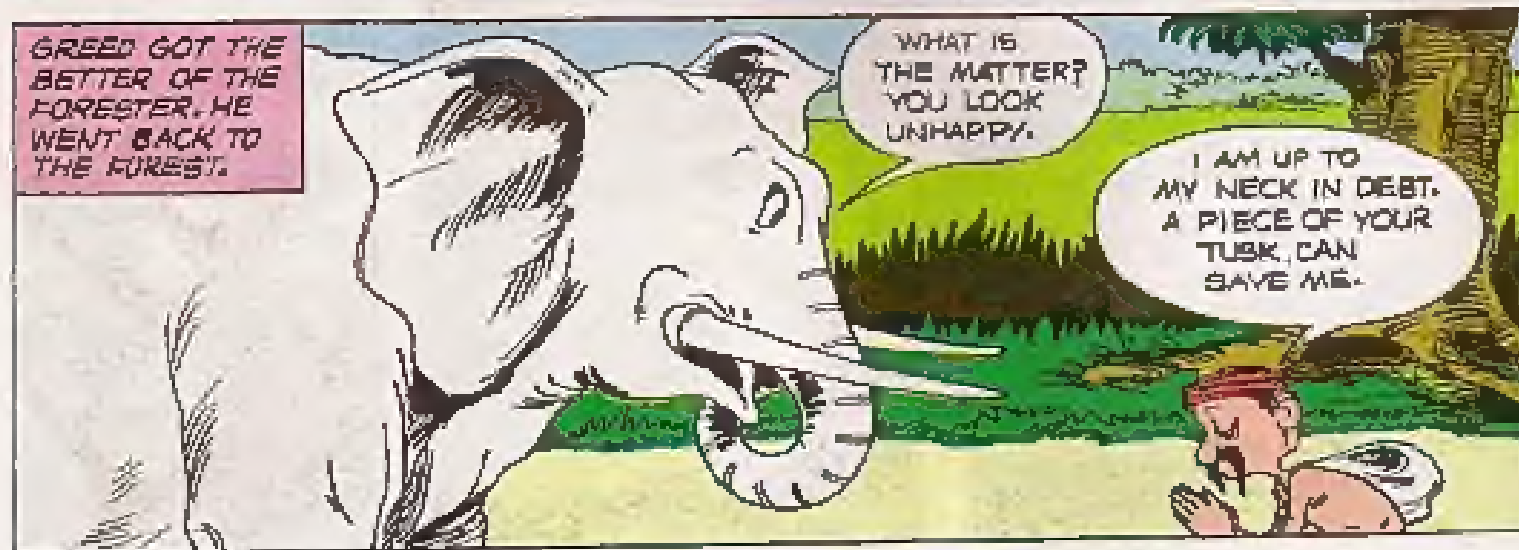
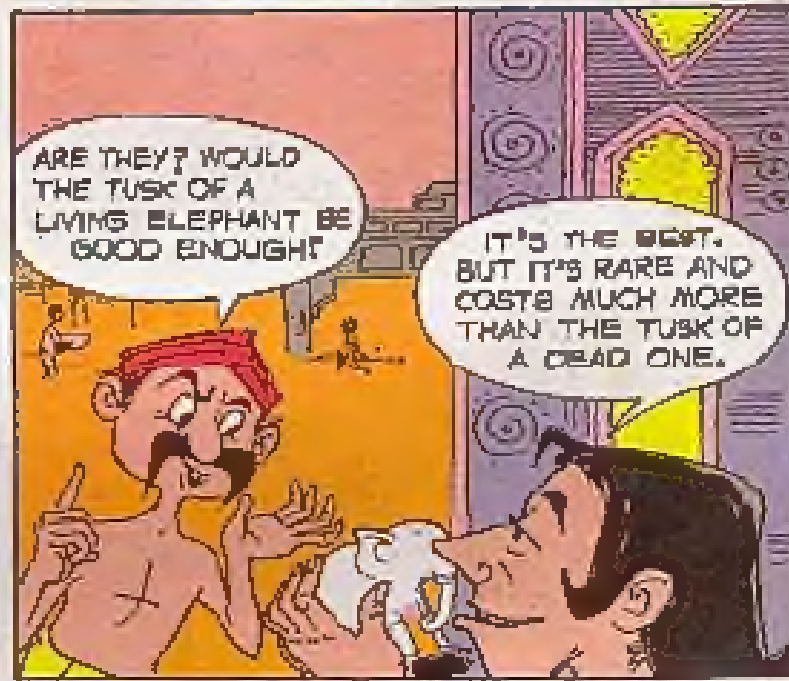
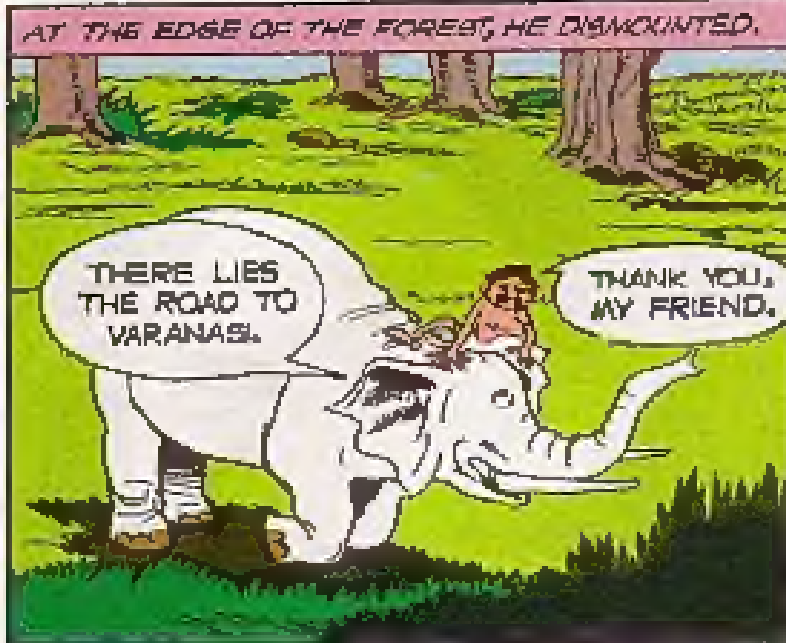


LET US WATCH THE SUN GO DOWN. IT FILLS MY HEART WITH PEACE.

I ENVY YOU, YOUR PEACE OF MIND. WE MEN ARE RESTLESS CREATURES.

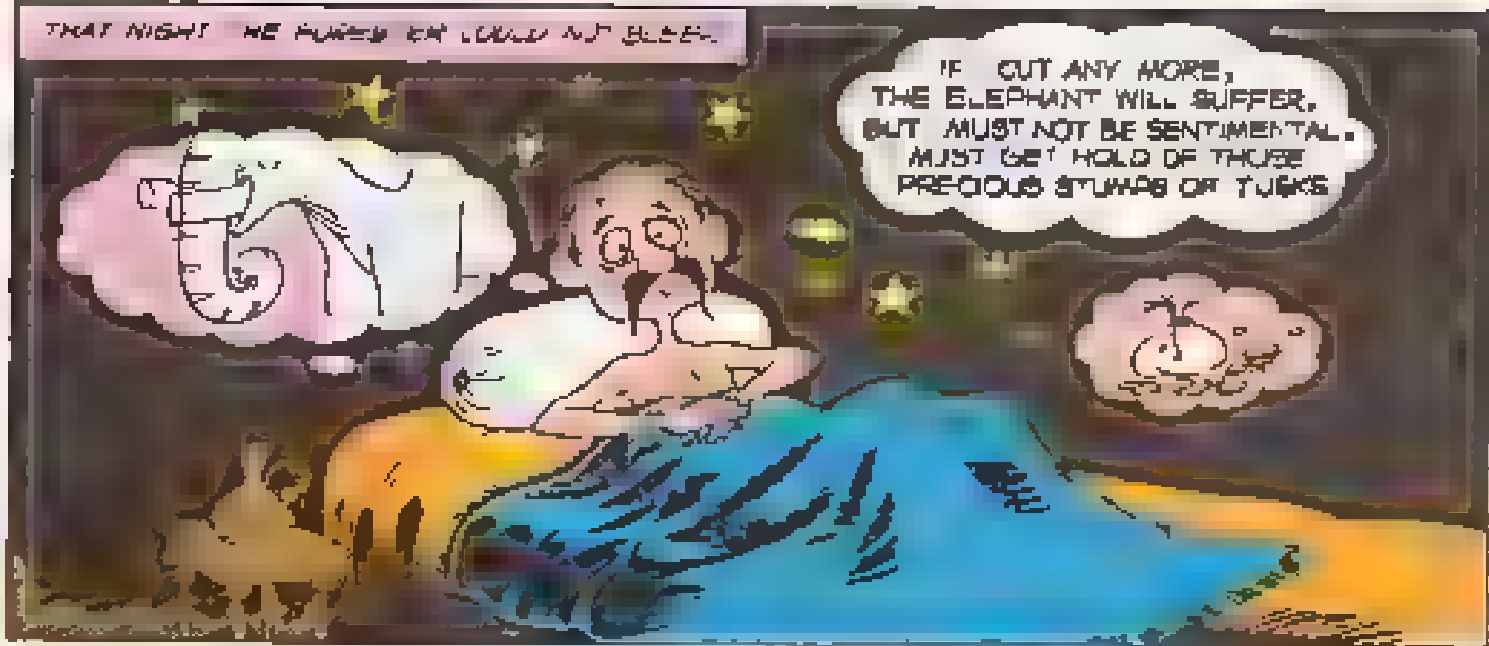
AFTER A FEW DAYS —







THAT NIGHT HE FURED HE COULD NOT SLEEP.



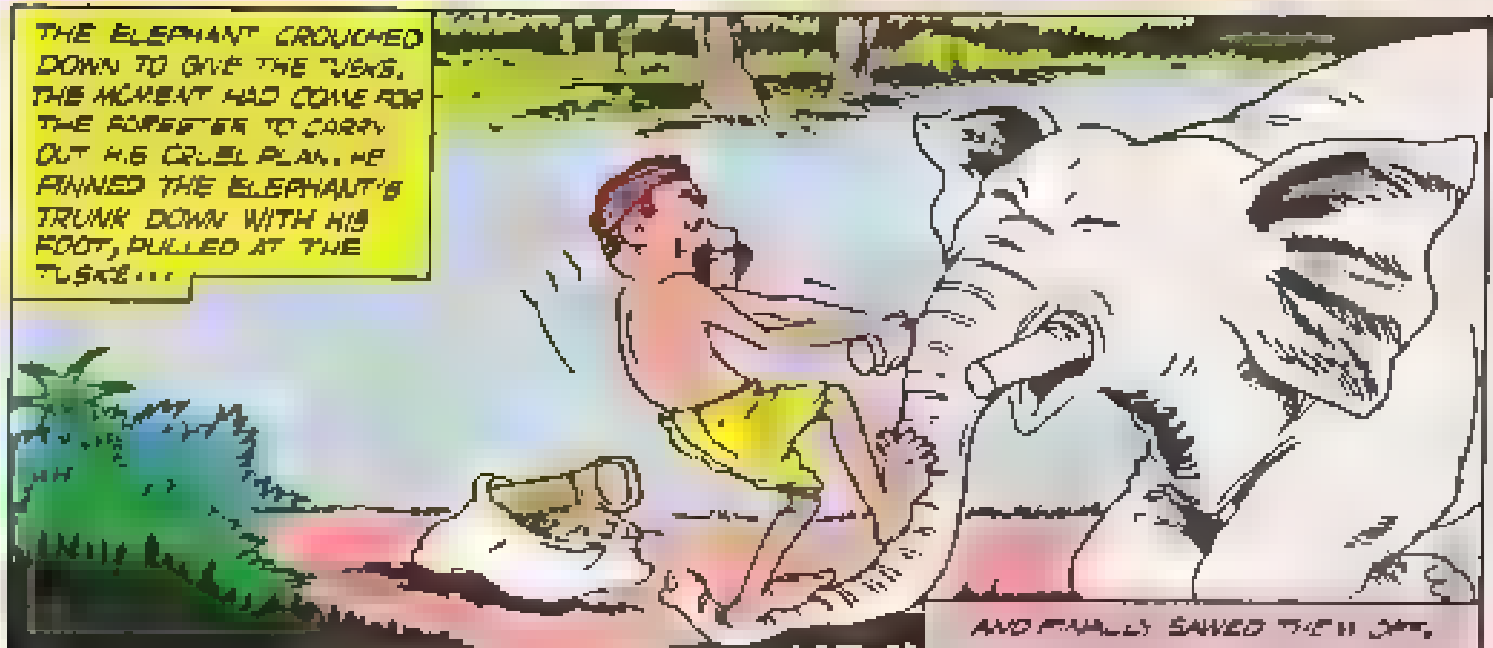
SO BACK HE WENT TO THE ELEPHANT. GREED HAD HARDENED HIS HEART.

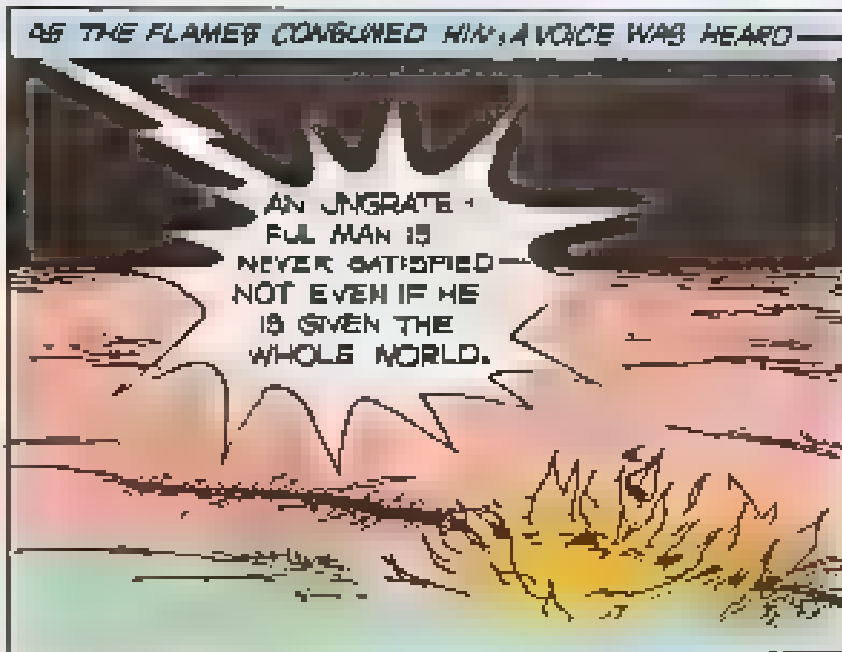
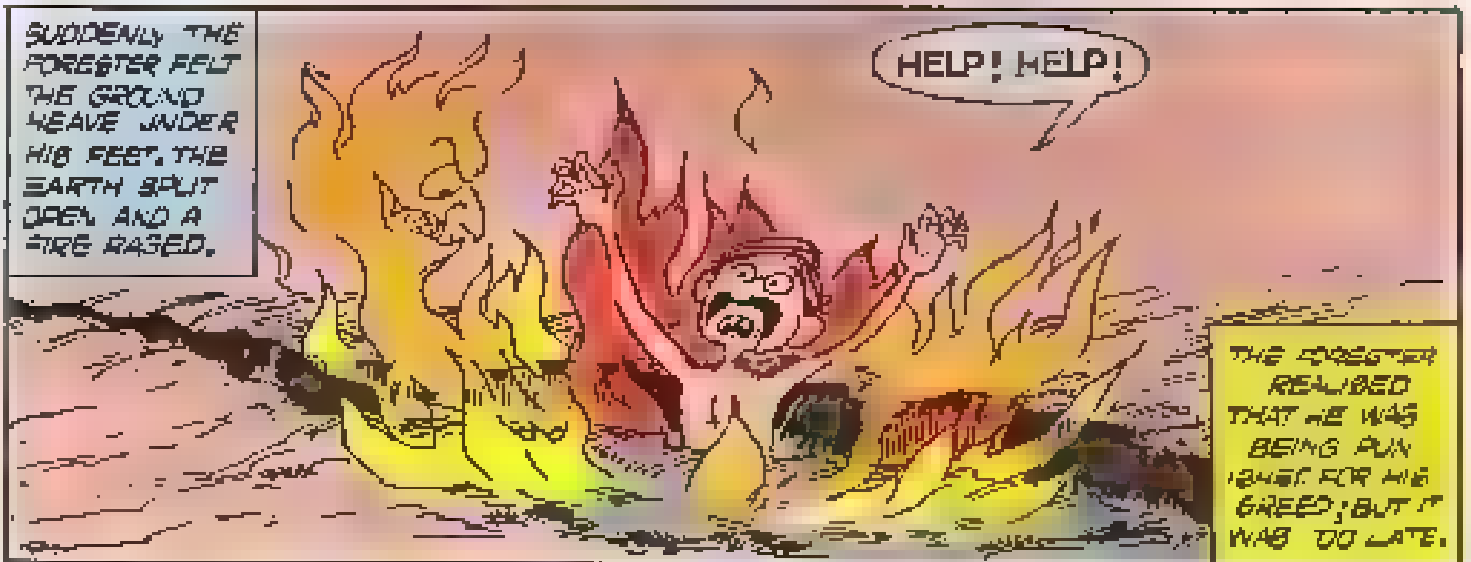
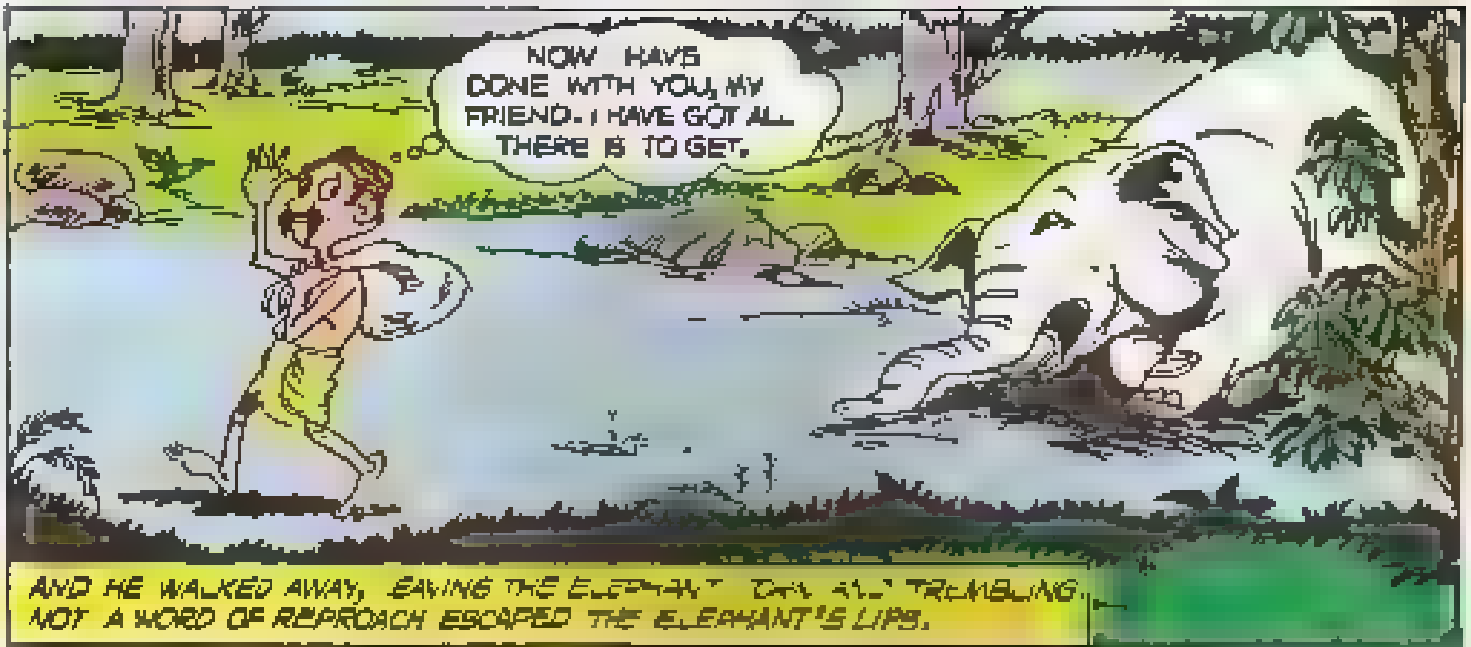


YOU MAY HAVE WHAT IS LEFT OF MY TUSKS.



THE ELEPHANT CROUCHED DOWN TO GIVE THE TUSKS. THE MOMENT HAD COME FOR THE FORESTER TO CARRY OUT HIS CRUEL PLAN. HE FINNED THE ELEPHANT'S TRUNK DOWN WITH HIS FOOT, PULLED AT THE TUSKS...

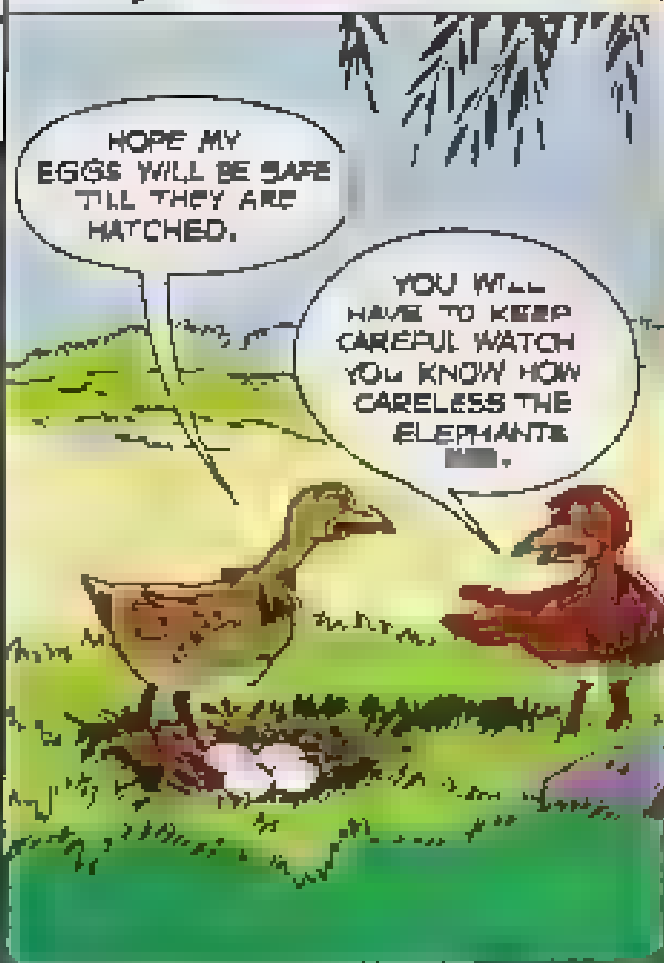




THE BRAVE QUAIL*



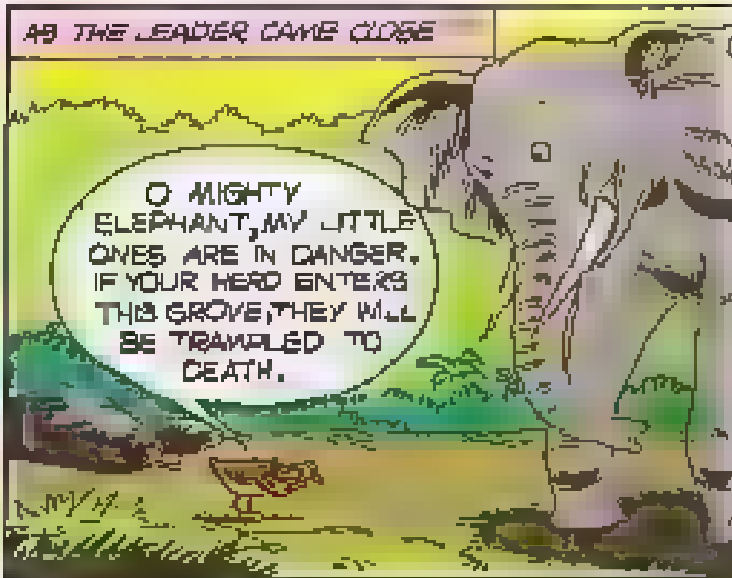
ONE DAY, ONE OF THE QUAILS Laid SOME EGGS.



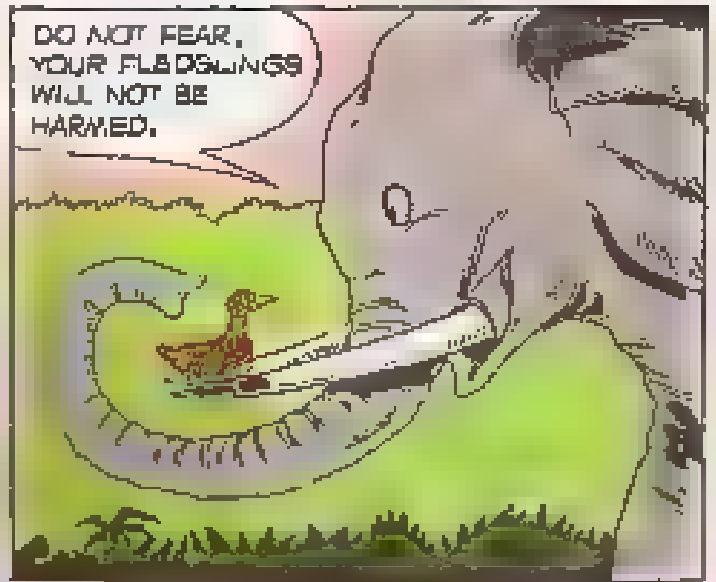
SOON THE FLEDGLINGS WERE HATCHED, ONE DAY -



AS THE LEADER CAME CLOSE

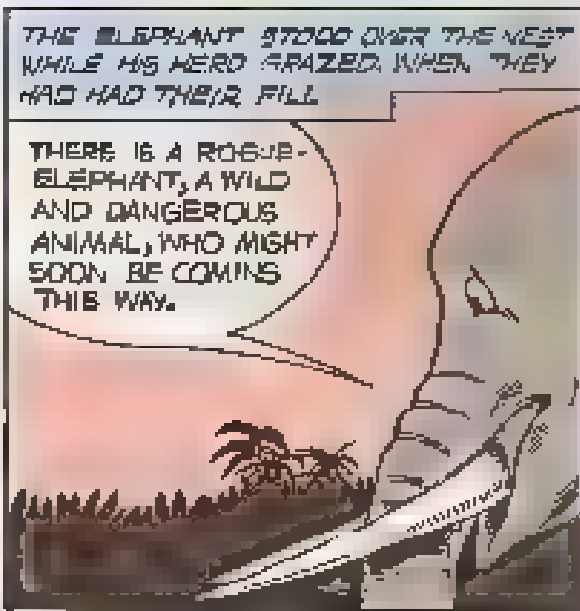


DO NOT FEAR,
YOUR FLADGLINGS
WILL NOT BE
HARMED.



THE ELEPHANT STOOD OVER THE NEST
WHILE HIS HERD GRAZED. WHEN THEY
HAD HAD THEIR FILL

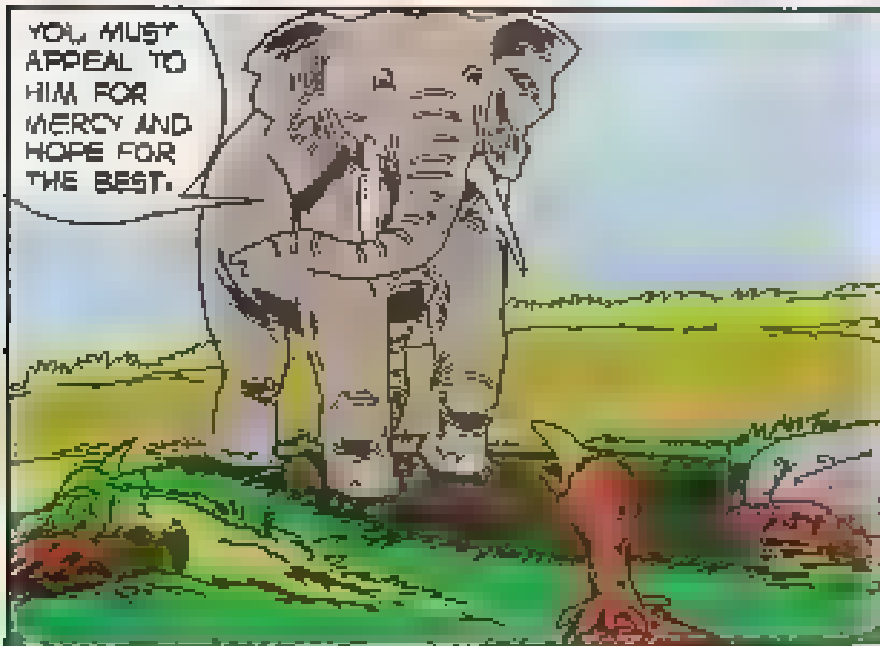
THERE IS A ROBUS-
ELEPHANT, A WILD
AND DANGEROUS
ANIMAL, WHO MIGHT
SOON BE COMING
THIS WAY.



WHAT SHALL
DO? AM SO
SMALL AND
WEAK



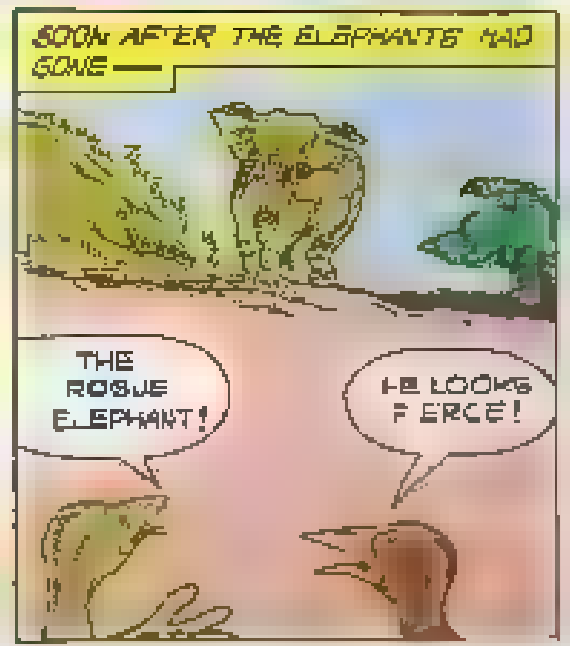
YOU, MUST
APPEAL TO
HIM FOR
MERCY AND
HOPE FOR
THE BEST.



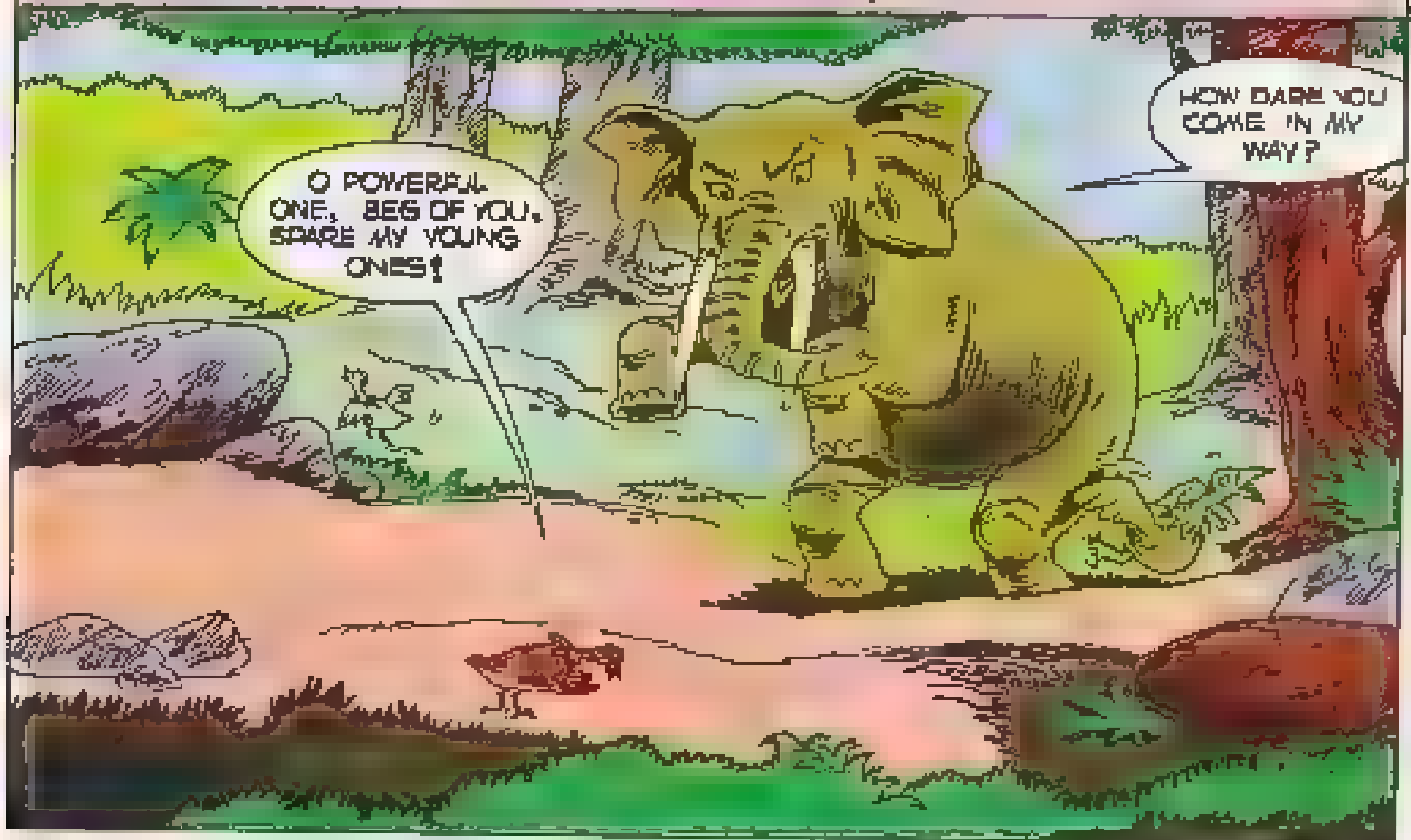
SOON AFTER THE ELEPHANTS HAD
GONE —

THE
ROBUS
ELEPHANT!

HE LOOKS
FERCE!



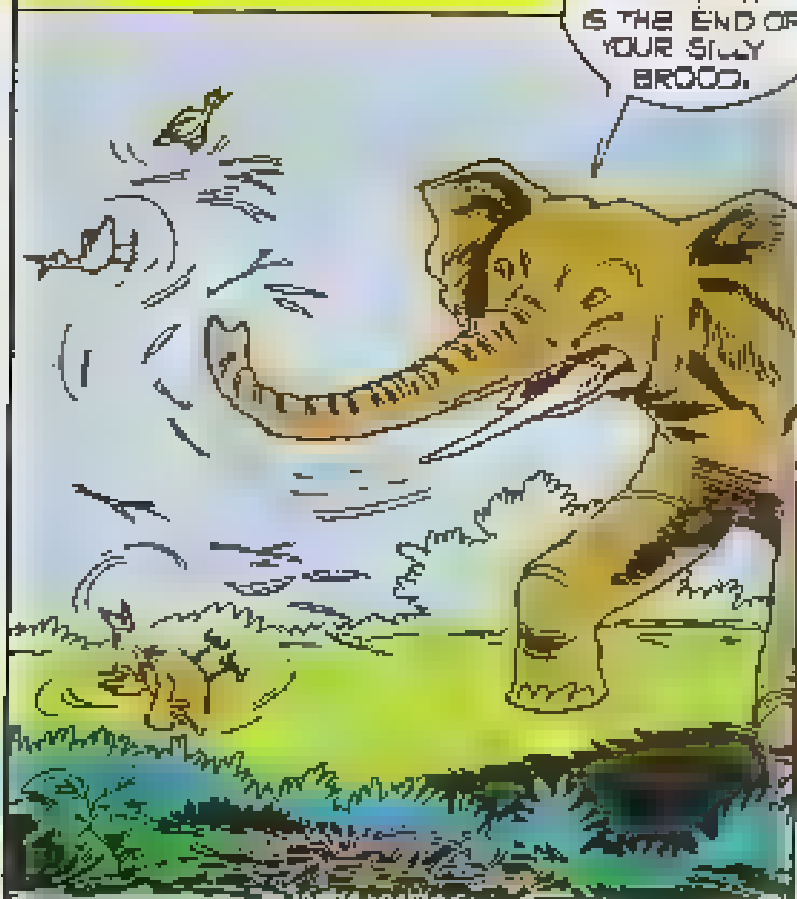
THE MOTHER QUAIL WASTED NO TIME. SHE WAS AT HIS FEET, HER HEAD LOWERED IN SALUTE.



O POWERFUL ONE, BEG OF YOU, SPARE MY YOUNG ONES!

HOW DARE YOU COME IN MY WAY?

THE ELEPHANT LASHED AT THE NEST.

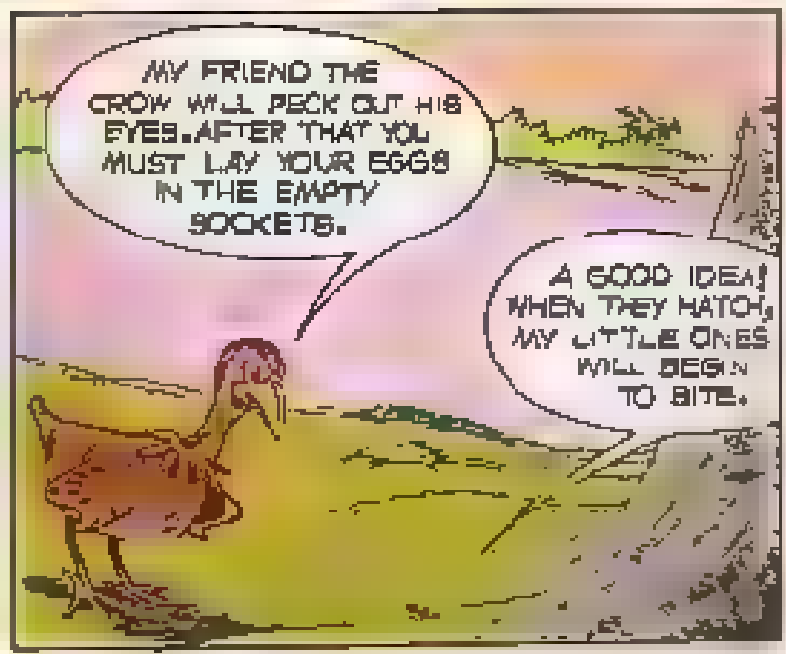
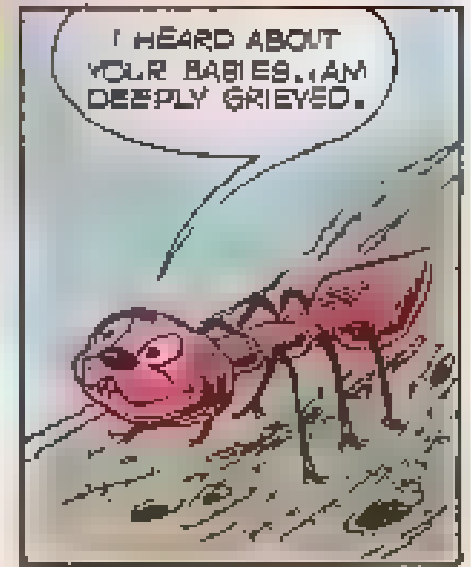
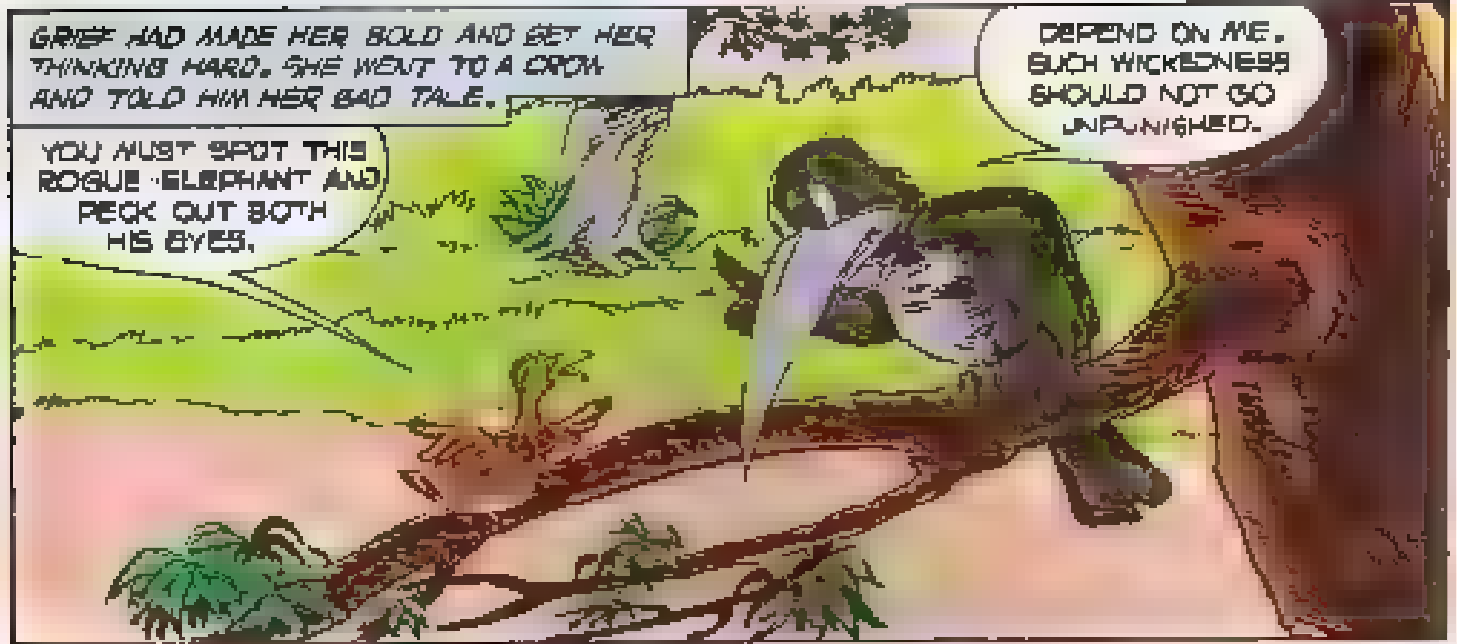


THERE! THAT IS THE END OF YOUR SILLY BROOD.

AS THE QUAIL WEPT OVER THE REMAINS OF HER DEAD CHILDREN.

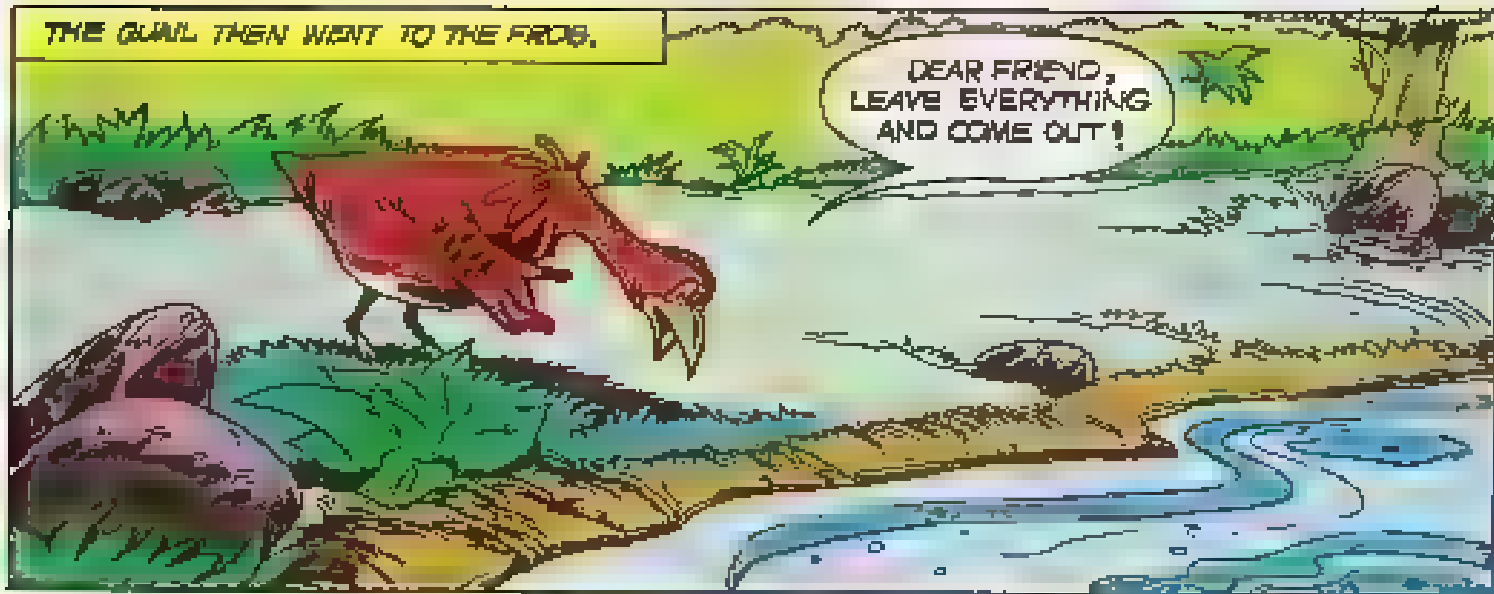


WILL SOON SHOW YOU HOW STRONG AM!



THE QUAIL THEN WENT TO THE FROG.

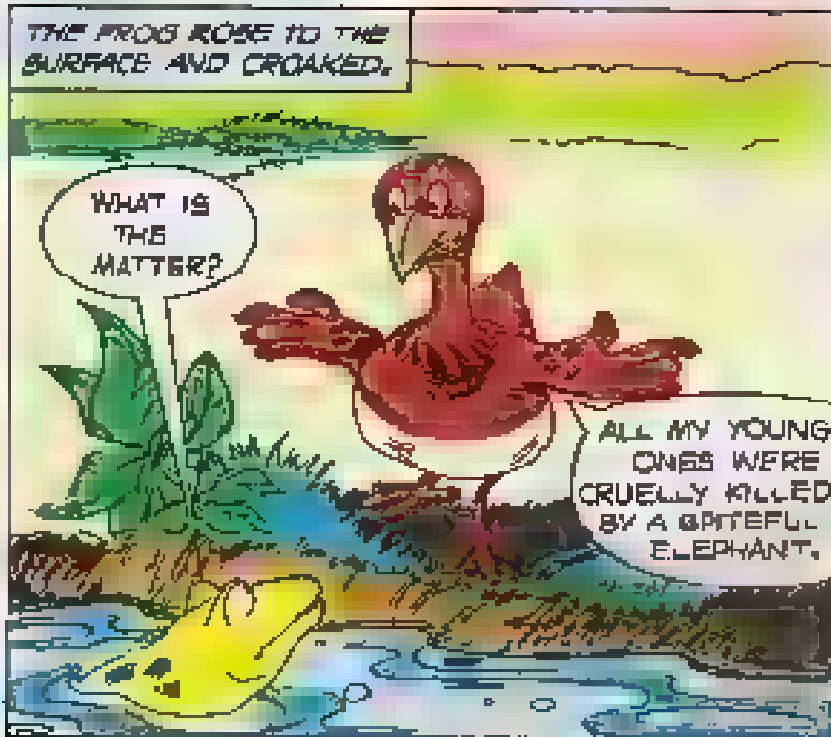
DEAR FRIEND,
LEAVE EVERYTHING
AND COME OUT !



THE FROG ROSE TO THE
SURFACE AND CROAKED.

WHAT IS
THE
MATTER?

ALL MY YOUNG
ONES WERE
CRUELLY KILLED
BY A GRATEFUL
ELEPHANT.



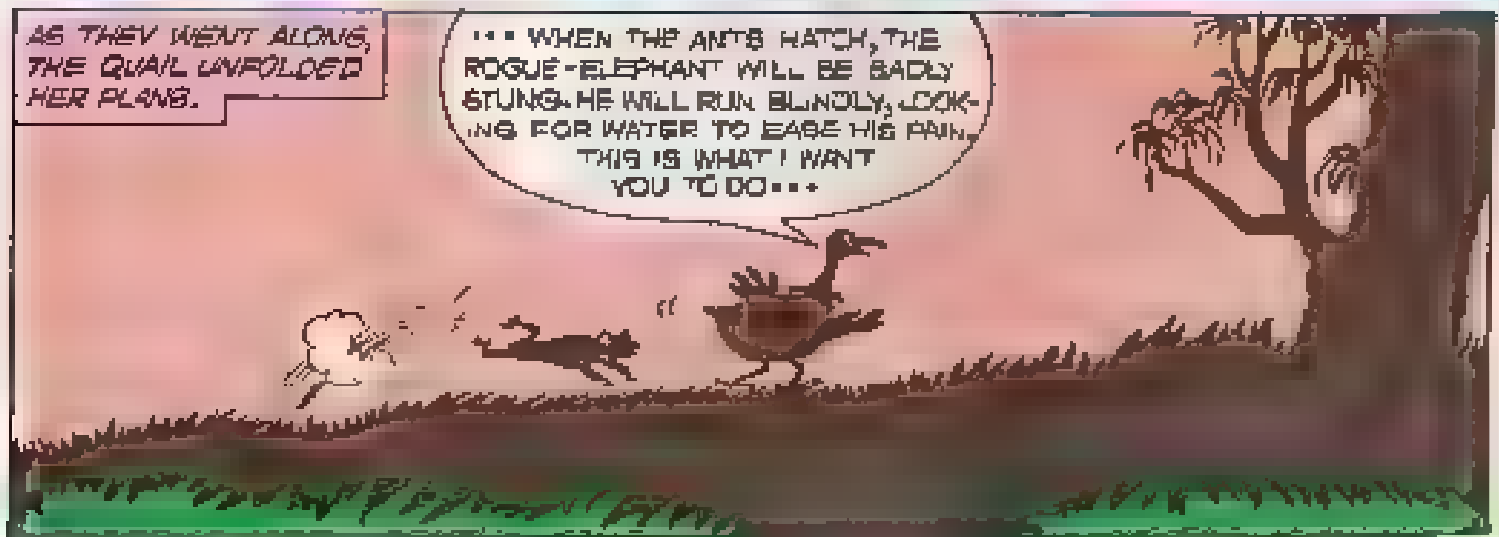
I AM TRYING
TO GET MY FRIENDS
TO HELP ME
PUNISH HIM.

YOU CAN
COUNT
ON ME.

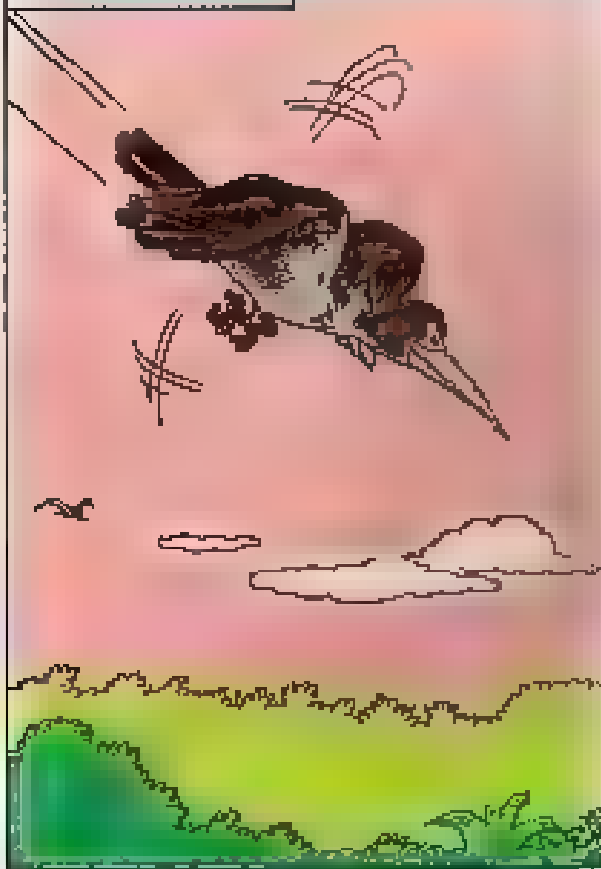


AS THEY WENT ALONG,
THE QUAIL UNFOLDED
HER PLANS.

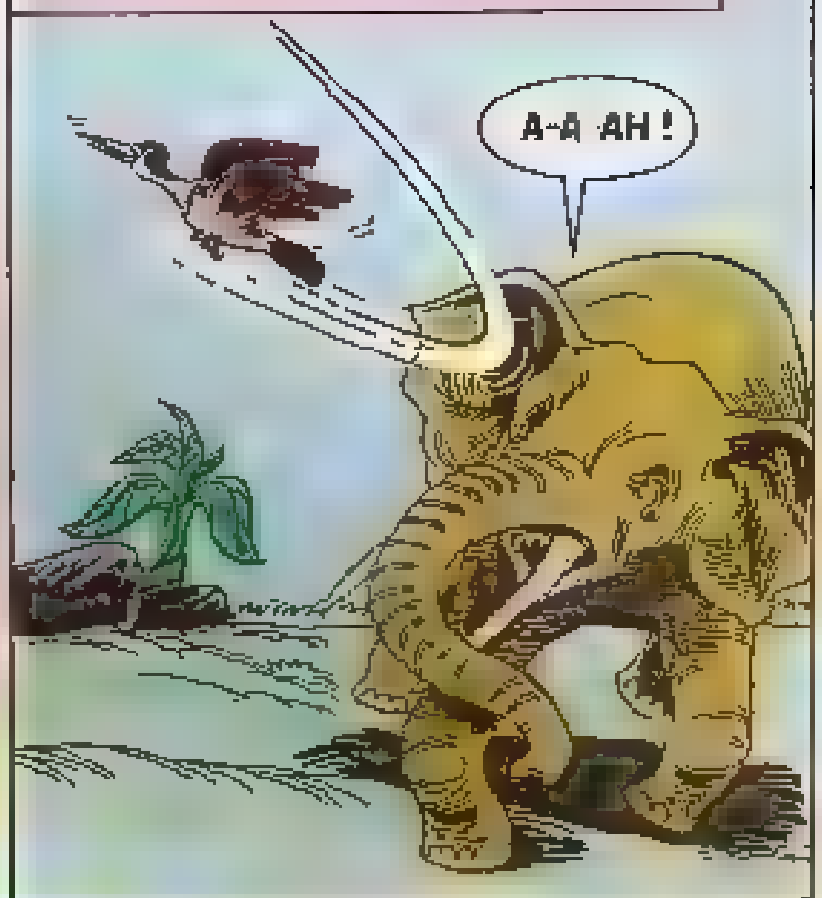
... WHEN THE ANTS HATCH, THE
ROGUE-ELEPHANT WILL BE BADLY
STUNG. HE WILL RUN BLINDLY, LOOK-
ING FOR WATER TO EASE HIS PAIN.
THIS IS WHAT I WANT
YOU TO DO...



A LITTLE LATER, THE CROW DARTED AT THE ELEPHANT...



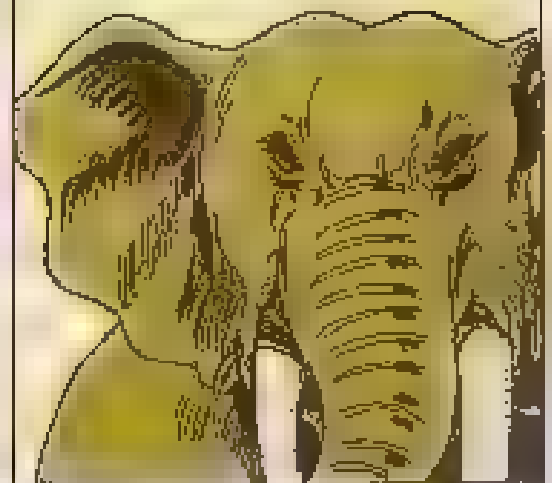
...PLUCKED HIS EYES OUT, AND FLEW AWAY.



THEN, THE ANT Laid HER EGGS IN HIS BLIND EYES.



A-A - AH!
MY EYES ARE
ON FIRE. WATER!
I NEED WATER!



JUST THEN THE FROG CROAKED
FROM A STEEP PRECIPICE CLOSE BY.



THE CROAK OF A
FROG! THERE MUST
BE WATER NEAR BY.
I'LL FOLLOW
THE SOUND.



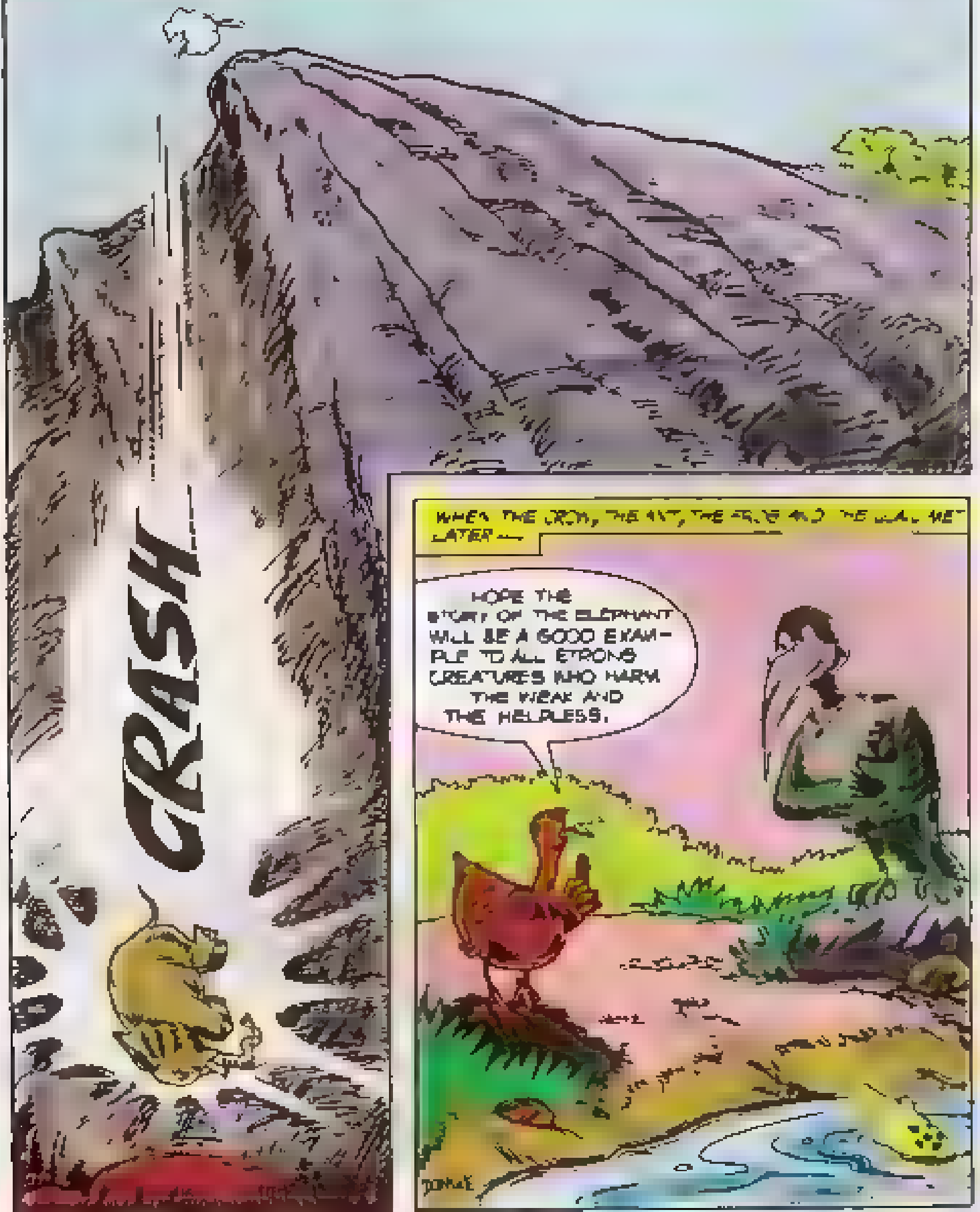
AS THE ELEPHANT GOT TO THE EDGE OF THE PRECIPICE ...



... THE FROG LEAPT ONTO A NARROW LEDGE BELOW AND CROAKED WITH ALL HIS MIGHT.

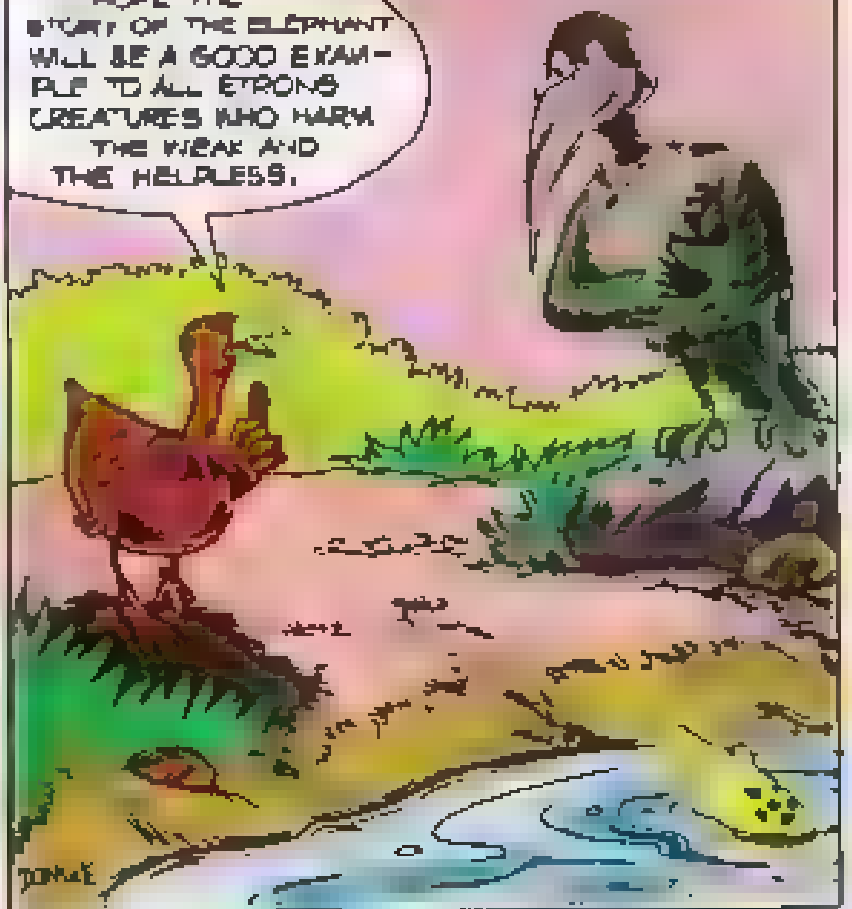


THE ELEPHANT FOLLOWED THE SOUND AND KEEN HURLING DOWN TO HIS DEATH.



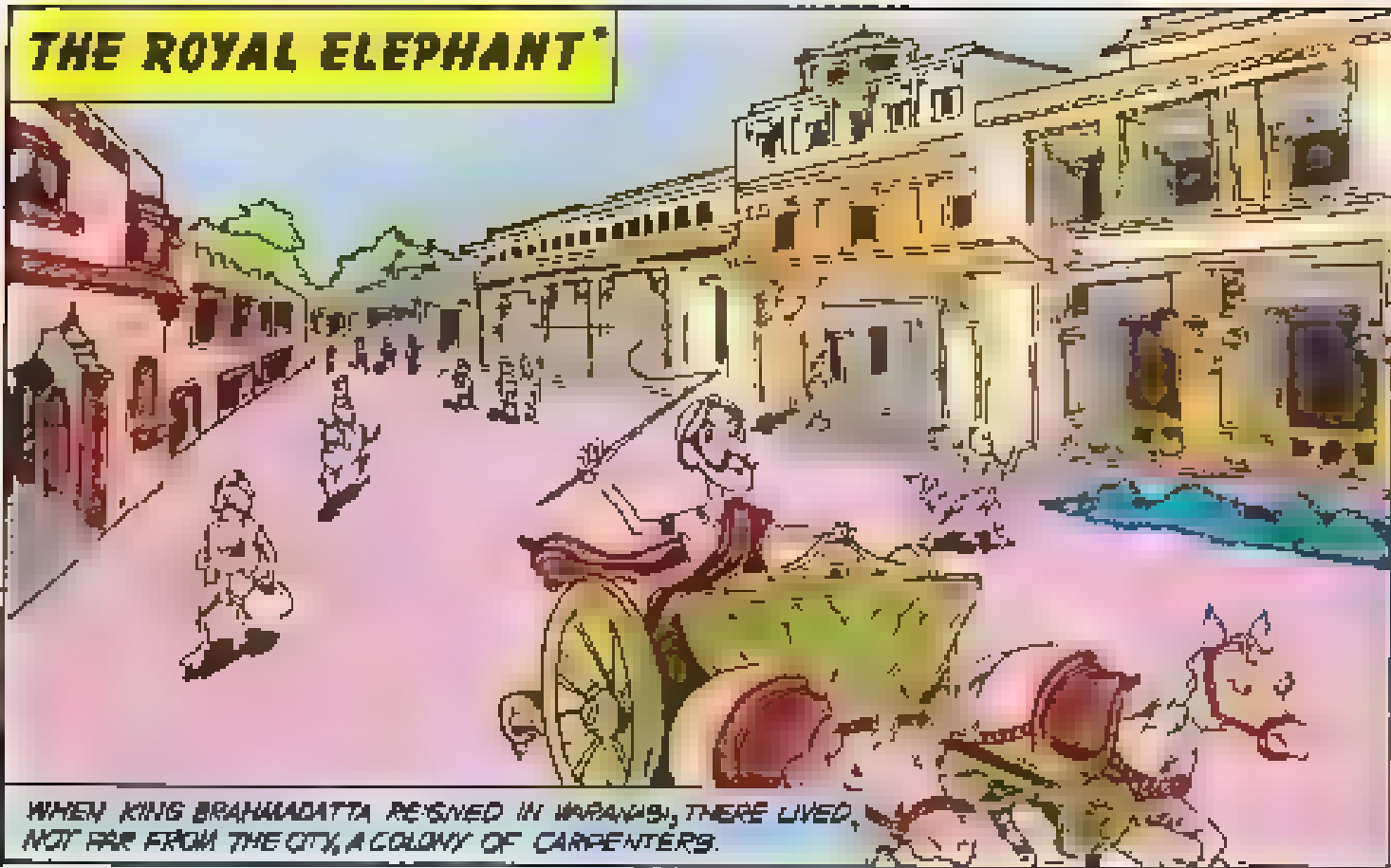
WHEN THE CROW, THE ANT, THE FLY AND THE WEAVER
LATER —

HOPE THE
STORY OF THE ELEPHANT
WILL BE A GOOD EXAM-
PLE TO ALL STRONG
CREATURES WHO HARM
THE WEAK AND
THE HELPLESS.



JOHNS

THE ROYAL ELEPHANT*

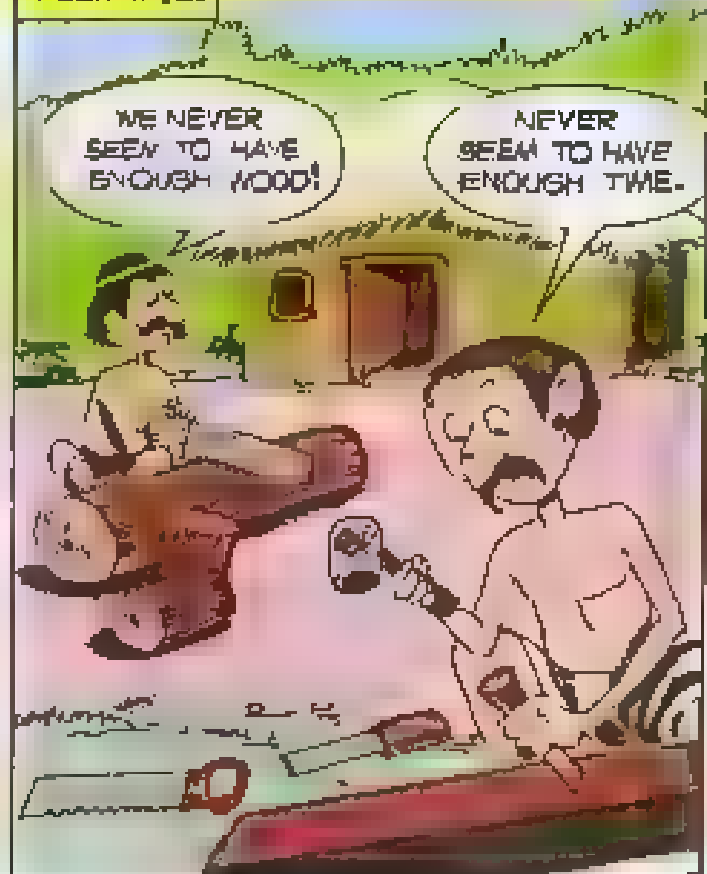


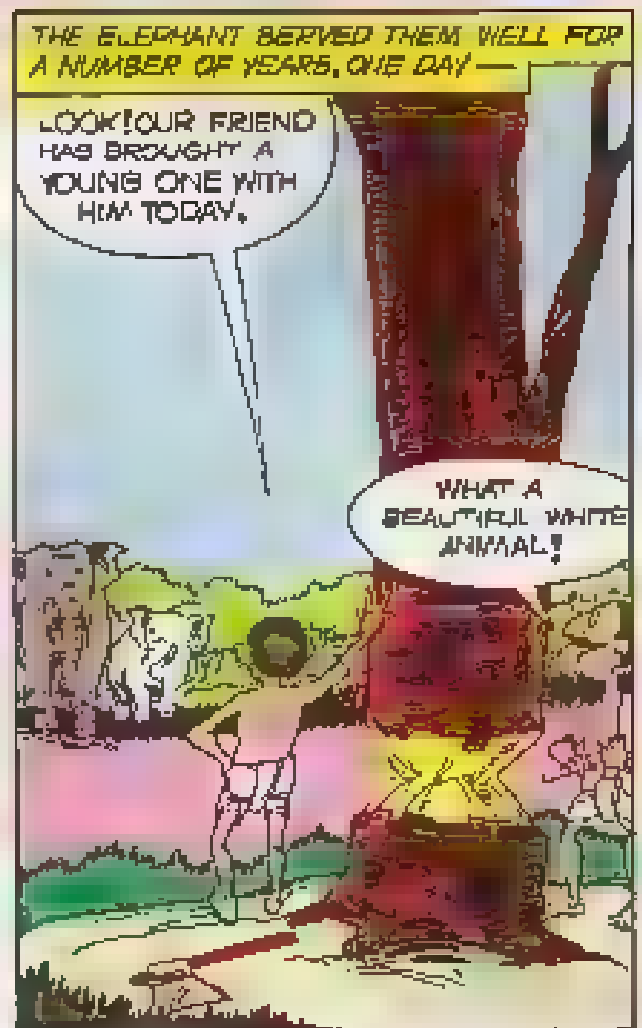
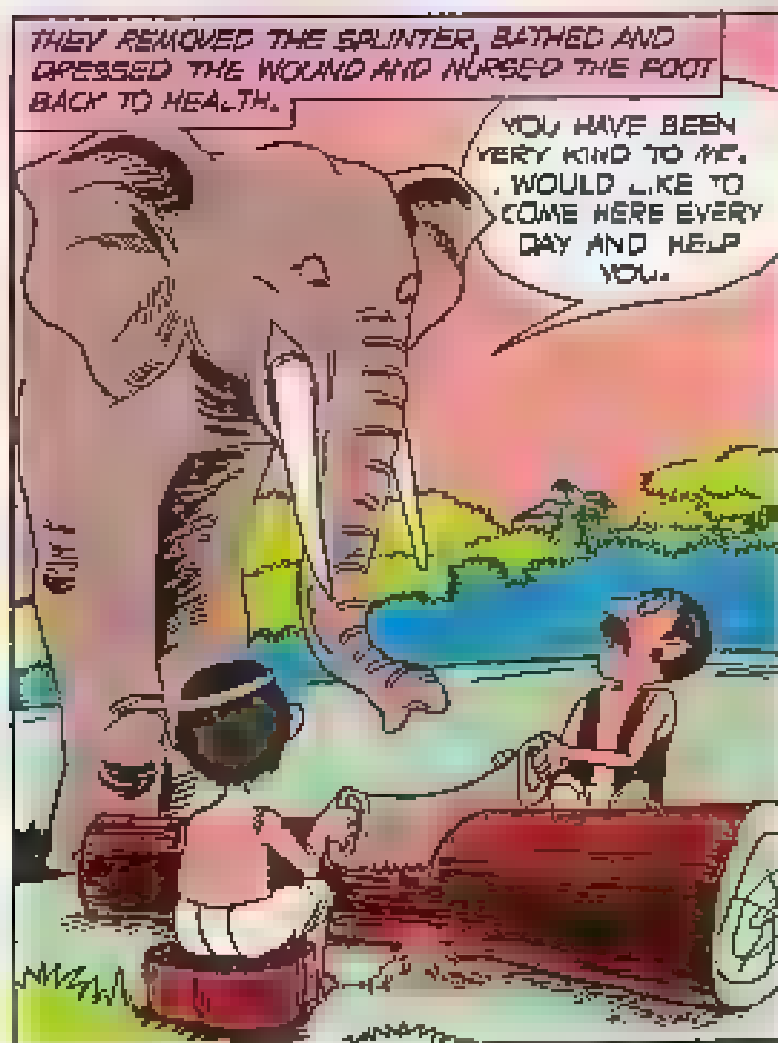
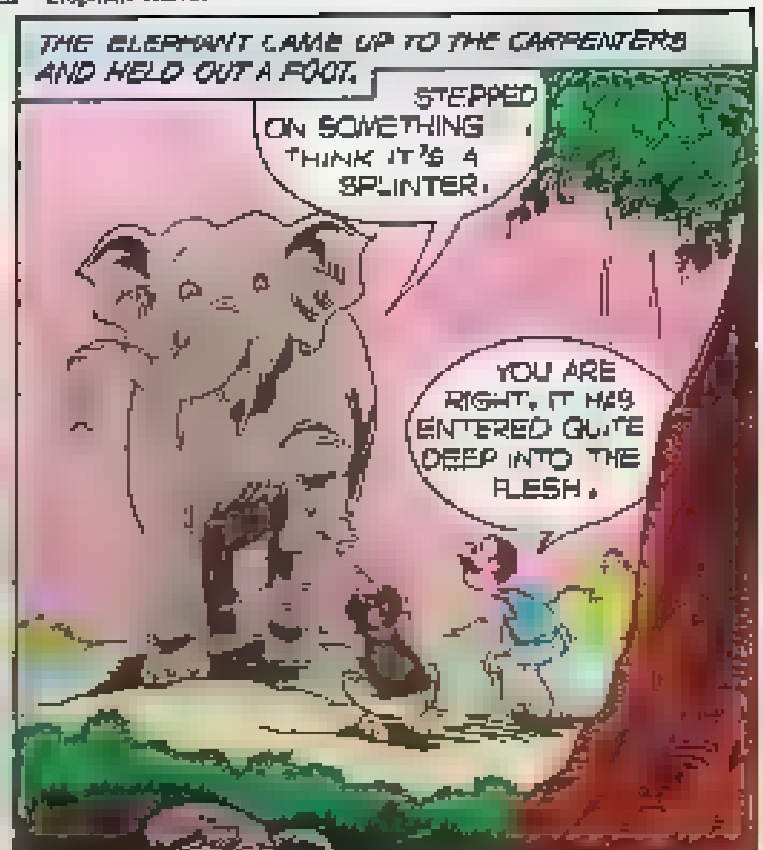
WHEN KING BRAHMA DATTA REIGNED IN VARANASI, THERE LIVED, NOT FAR FROM THE CITY, A COLONY OF CARPENTERS.

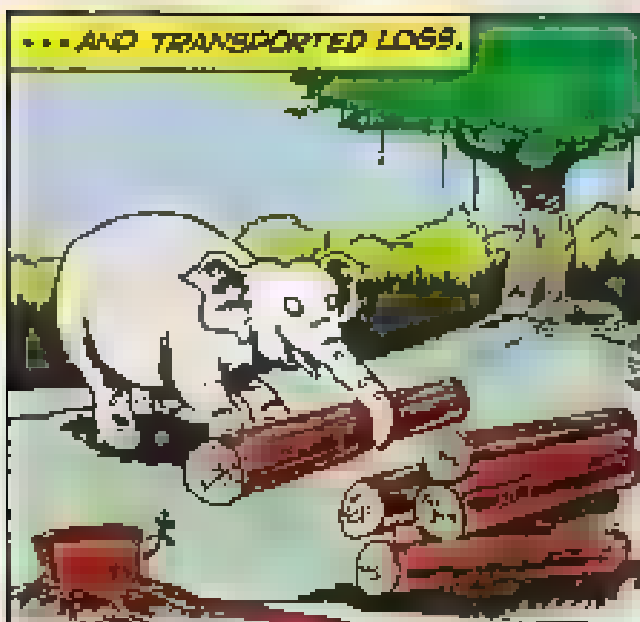
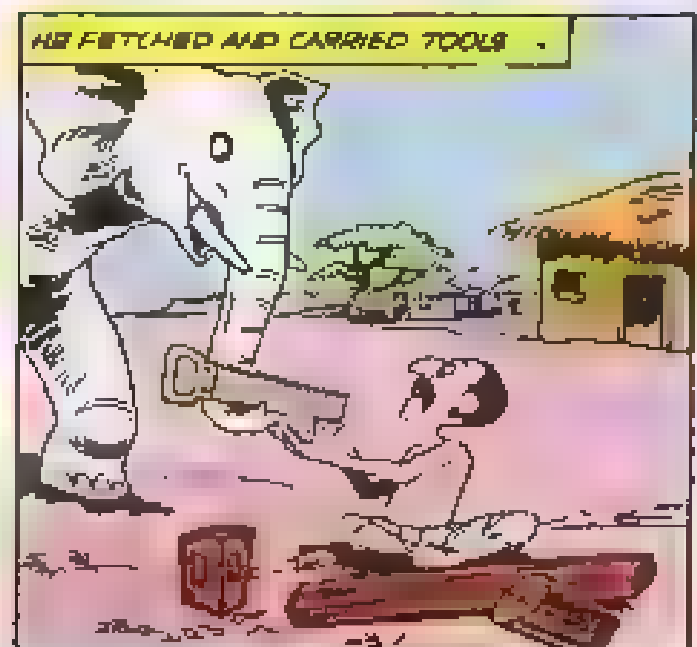
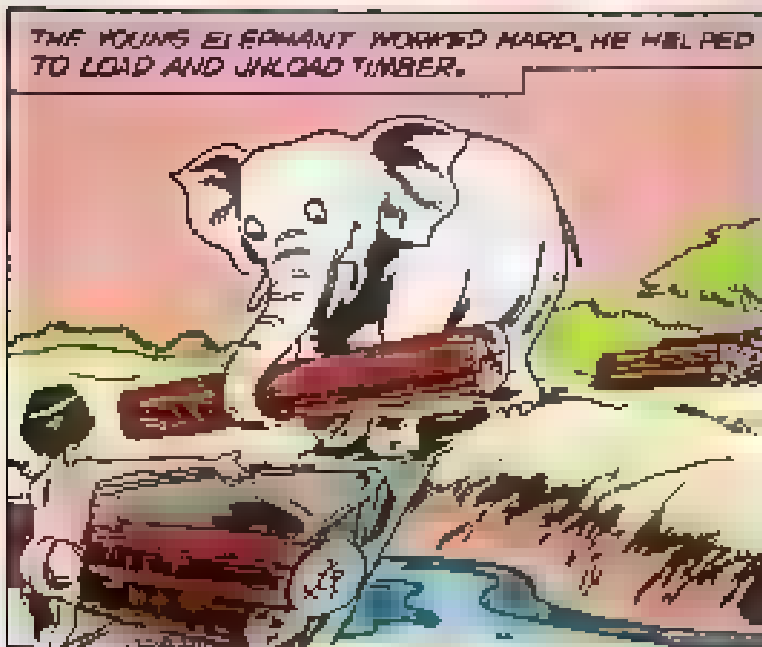
EVERY DAY THEY WOULD SAIL DOWN THE RIVER AND ENTER A DENSE FOREST TO FELL TREES FOR TIMBER.

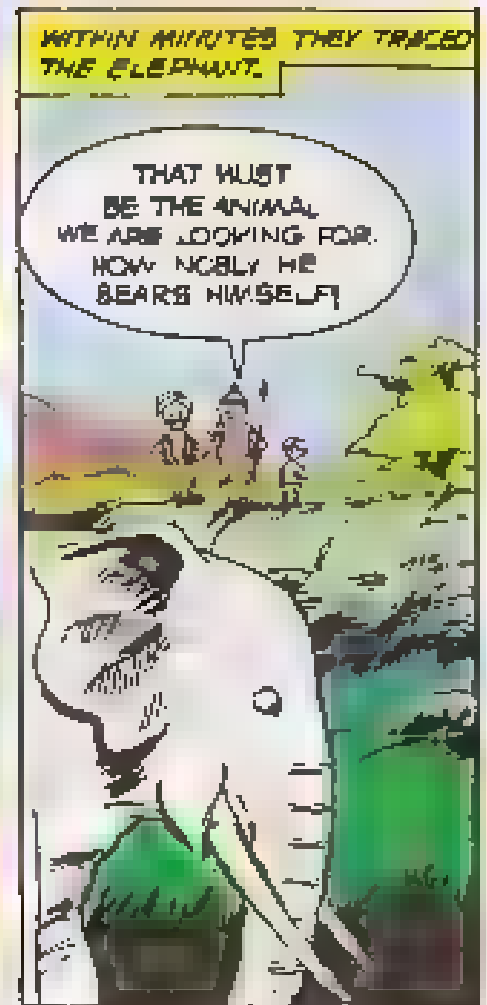
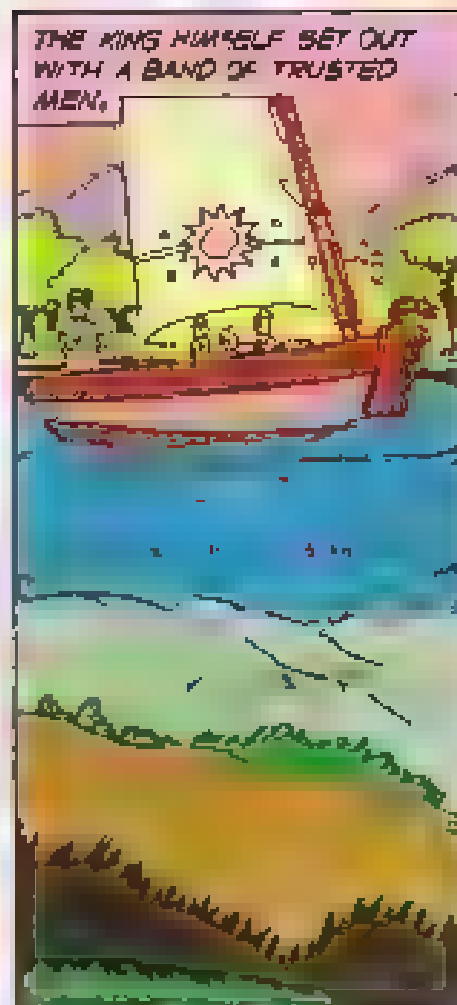
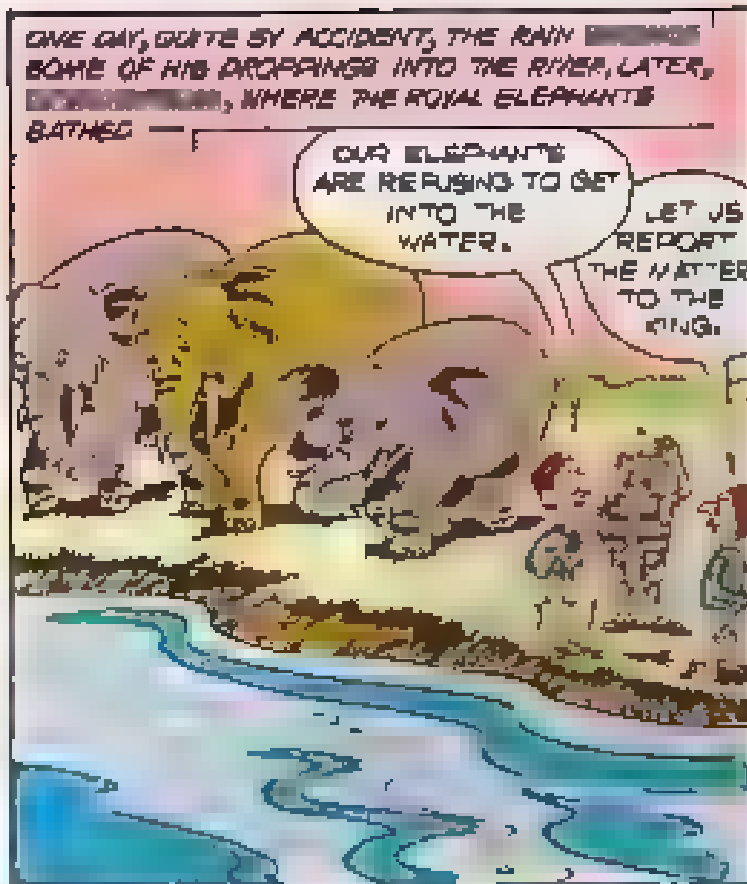


THUS THEY MOVED FROM FOREST TO VILLAGE AND BACK AGAIN. WORK WAS PLentiful.

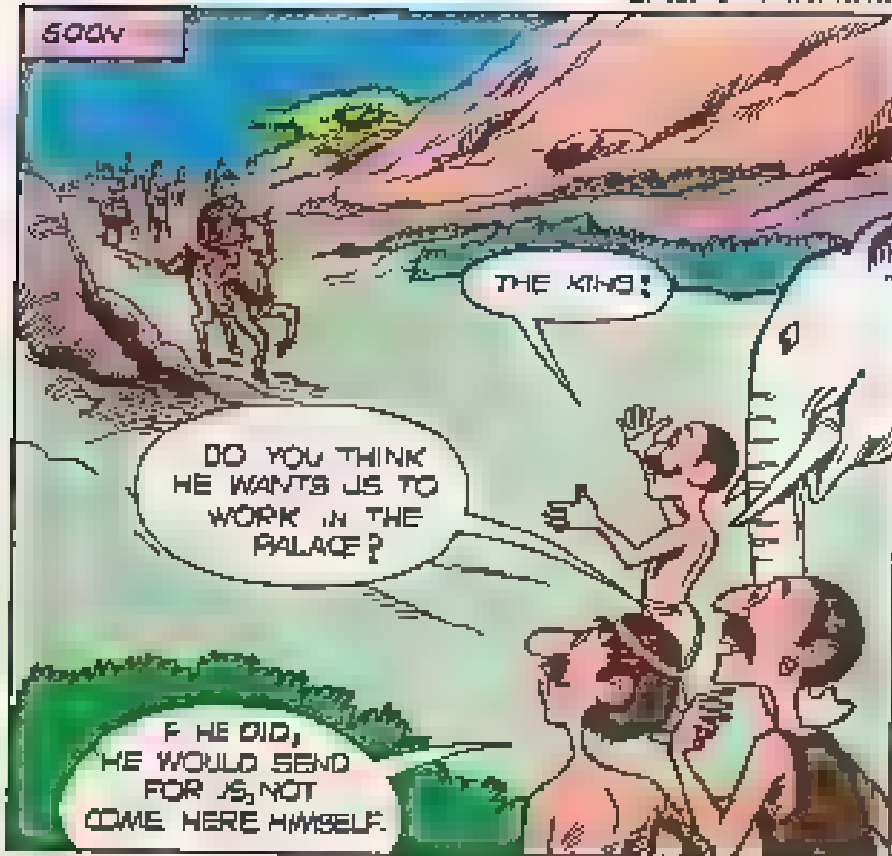








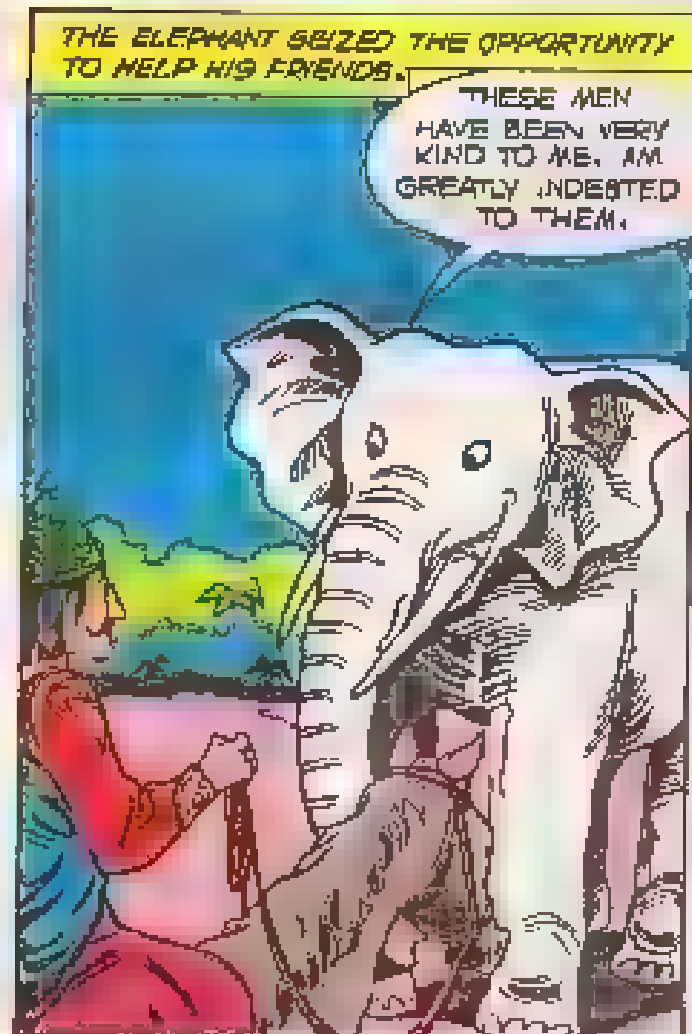
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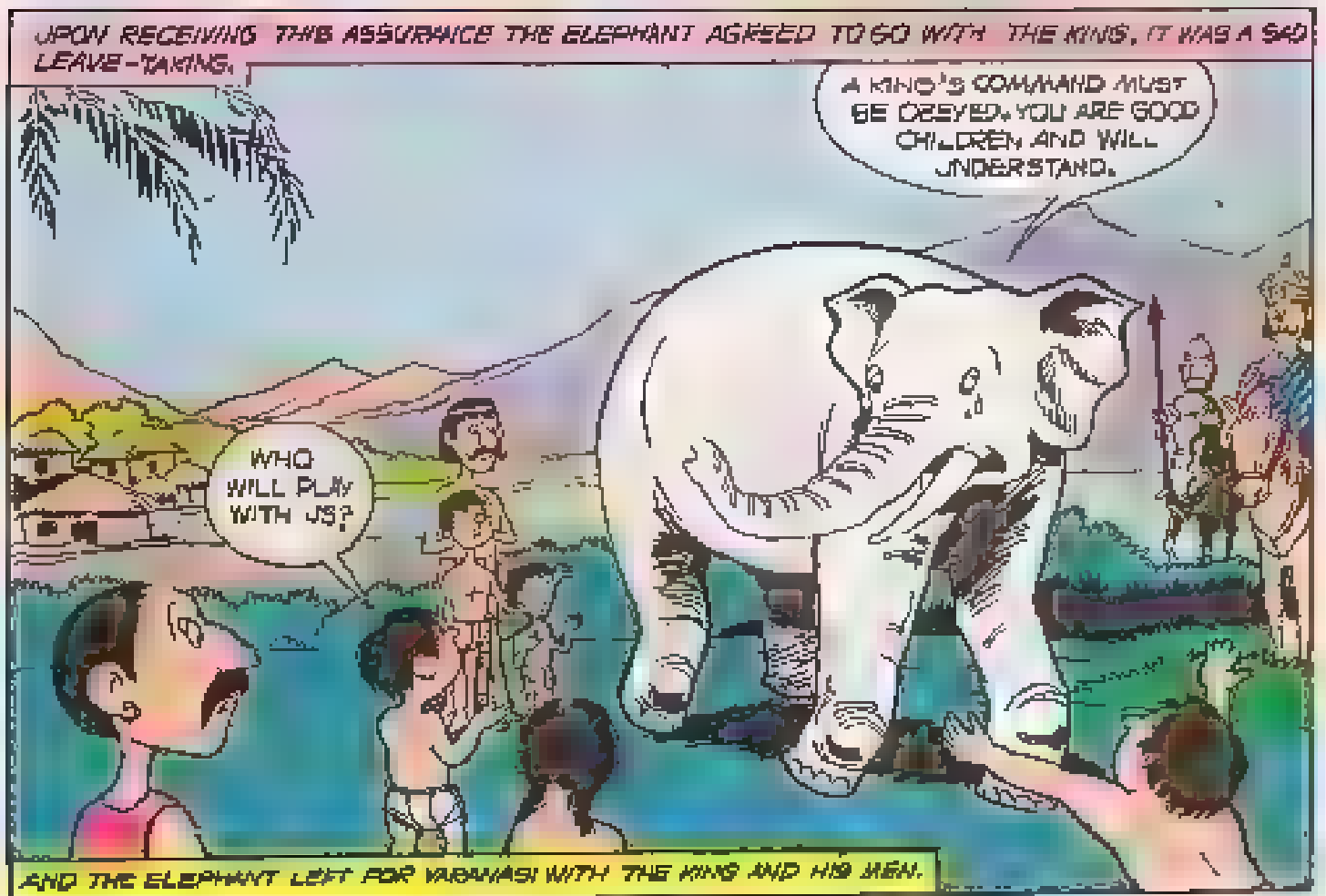
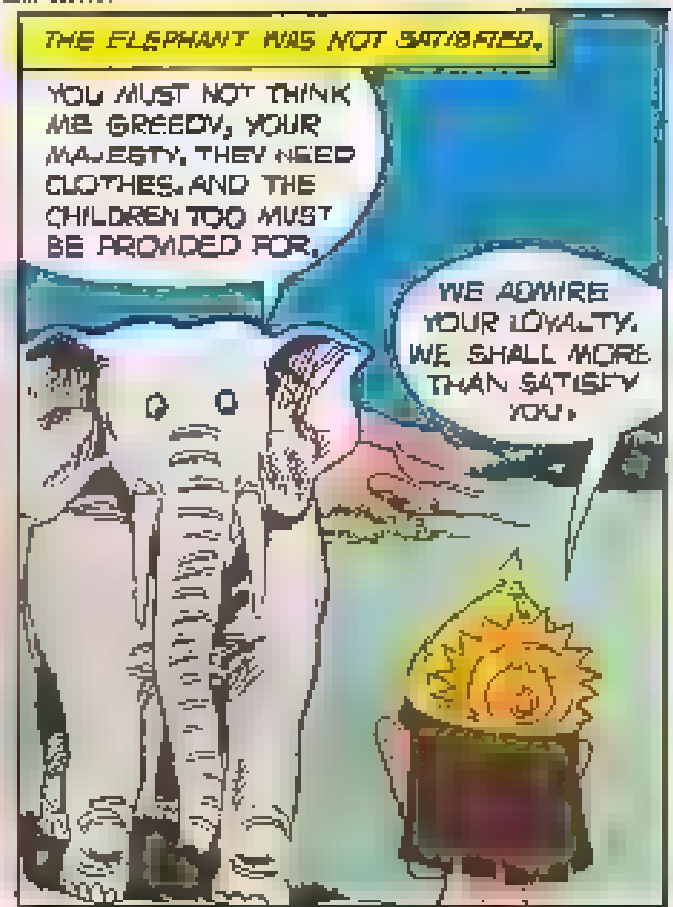


WHEN THE KING AND HIS PARTY DREW NEARER—

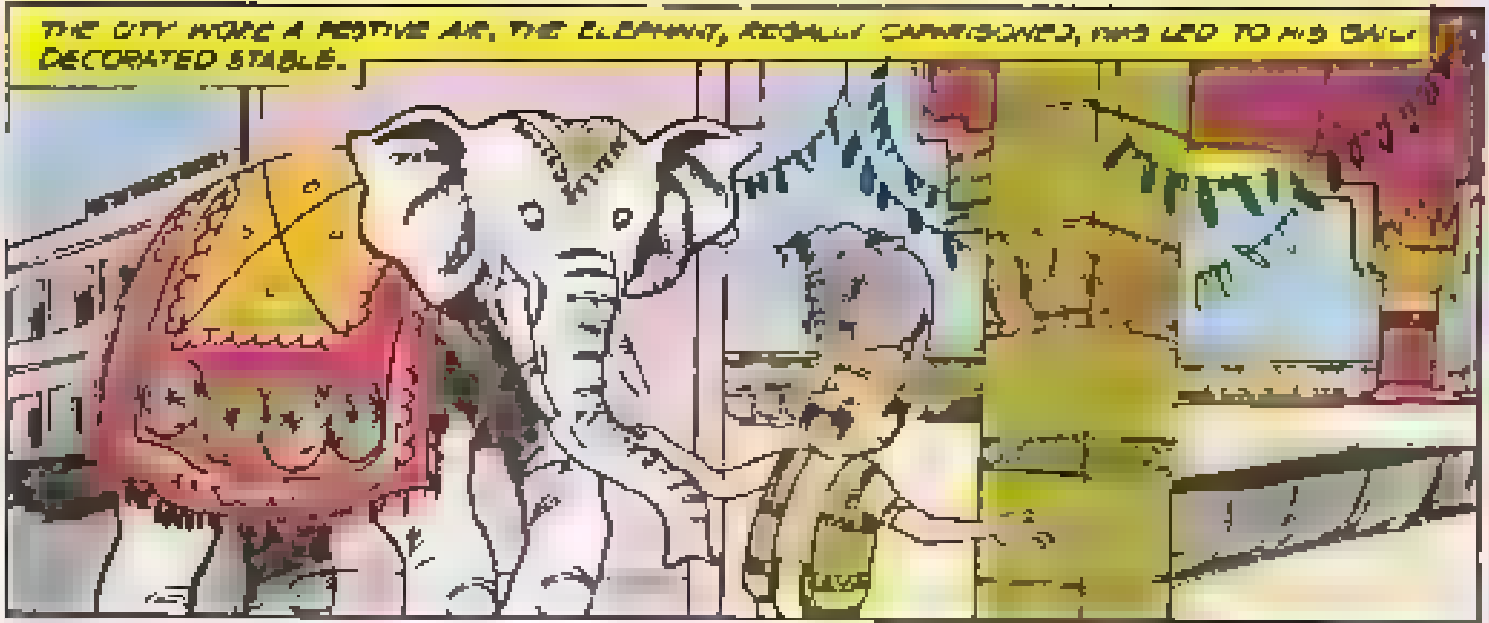


THE ELEPHANT SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP HIS FRIENDS.





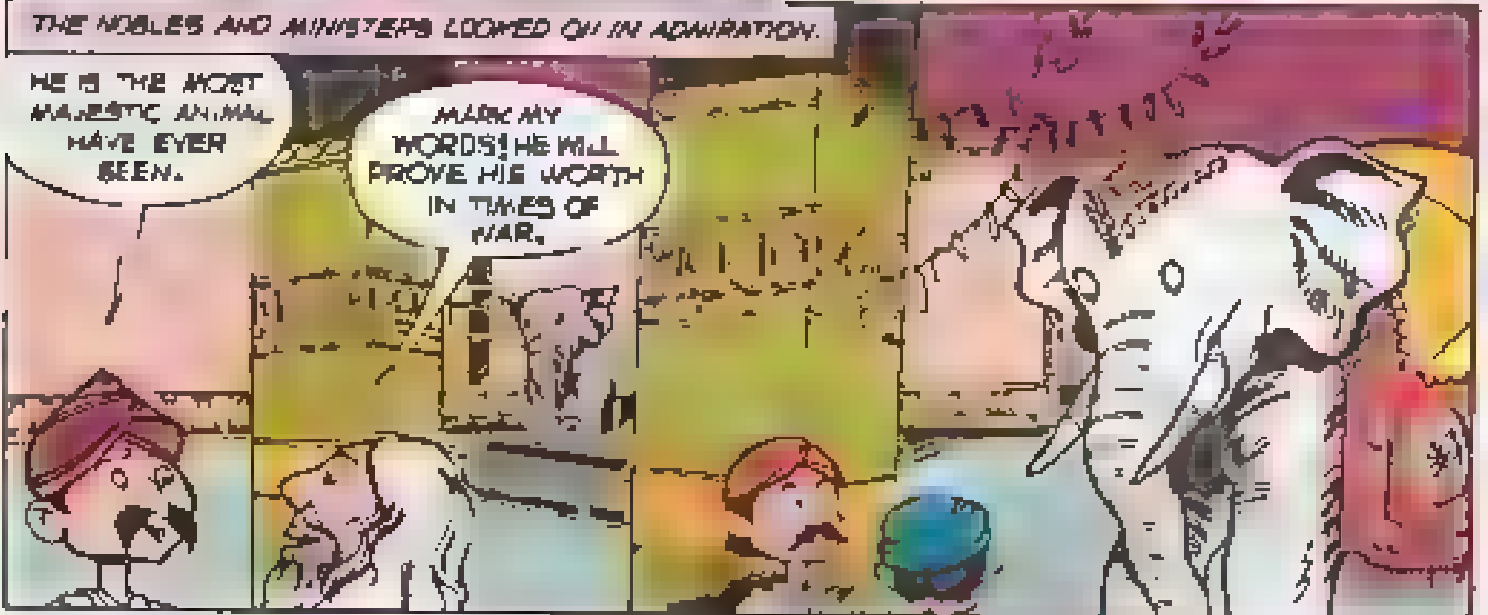
THE CITY WORE A FESTIVE AIR, THE ELEPHANT, REGALLY CAPTIONED, WAS LED TO HIS ONLY DECORATED STABLE.



THE NOBLES AND MINISTERS LOOKED ON IN ADMIRATION.

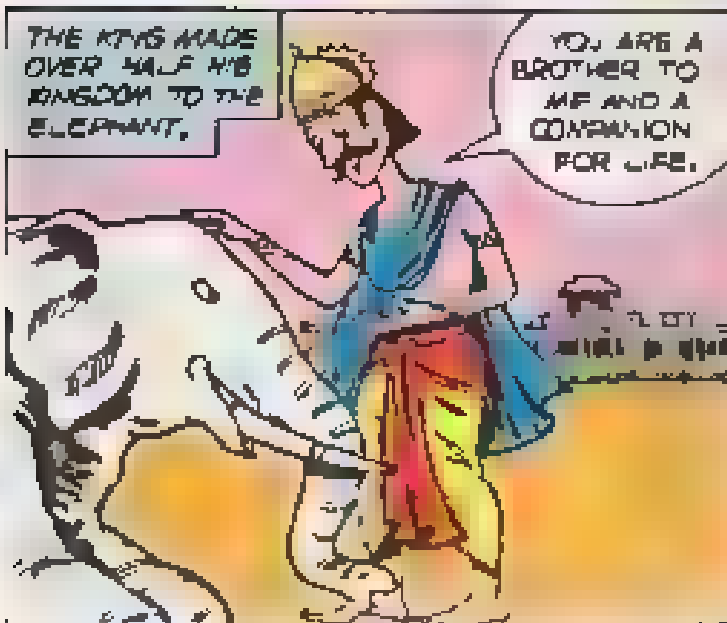
HE IS THE MOST MAJESTIC ANIMAL HAVE EVER SEEN.

MARK MY WORDS! HE WILL PROVE HIS WORTH IN TIMES OF WAR.



THE KING MADE OVER HALF HIS KINGDOM TO THE ELEPHANT.

YOU ARE A BROTHER TO ME AND A COMPANION FOR LIFE.

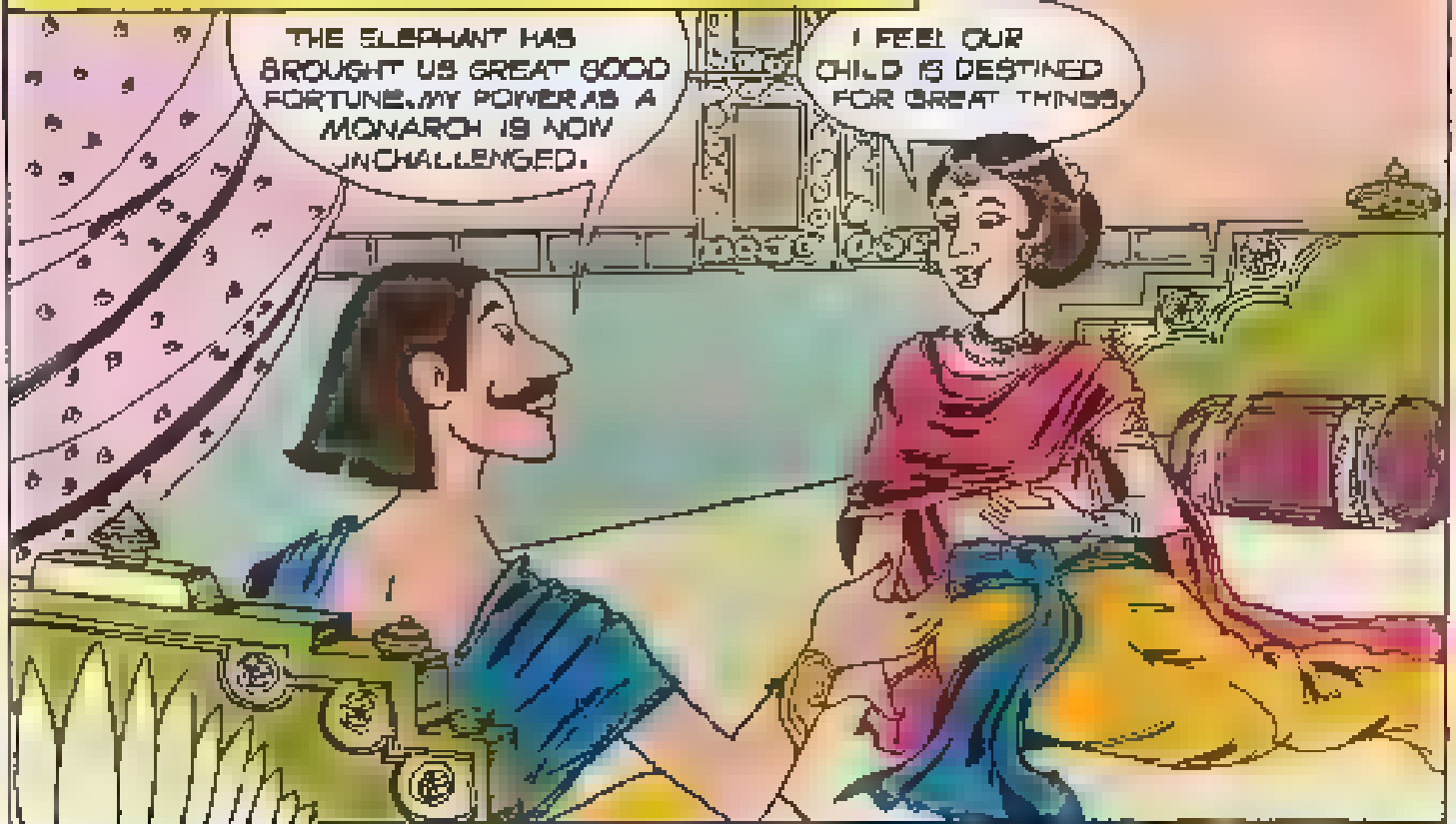


THE ELEPHANT BECAME DEEPLY ATTACHED TO THE KING AND FOLLOWED HIM EVERYWHERE.

MY LORD, HE REFUSES TO TOUCH HIS FOOD TILL YOU HAVE FIRST FED HIM A MORSEL.



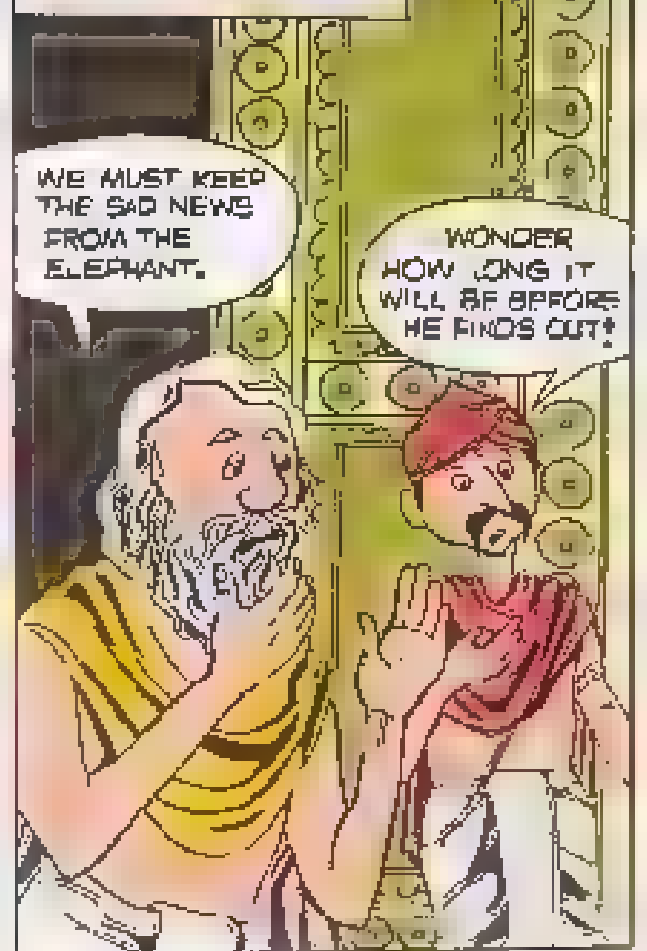
A FEW MONTHS LATER, THE QUEEN WAS EXPECTING A BABY.



BUT THEIR JOY WAS SHORT-LIVED. THE KING FELL SERIOUSLY ILL. AS HE LAY DYING —



WHEN THE KING DIED —



MEANWHILE, THE KING OF KOSALA WAS MARCHING TOWARDS VARANASI.

THE KING IS DEAD, AND CONFUSION REIGNS.



ACCORDING TO THE ASTROLOGERS, THE QUEEN WILL GIVE BIRTH TO HER CHILD WITHIN A WEEK. IF IT IS A SON, WE WILL FIGHT. IF NOT, WE WILL SURRENDER.



THE KING OF KOSALA ACCDED TO THEIR REQUEST.

THERE WERE HURRIED CONSULTATIONS AT VARANASI.

WE SHOULD ASK THEM TO SUSPEND FIGHTING FOR A WEEK.

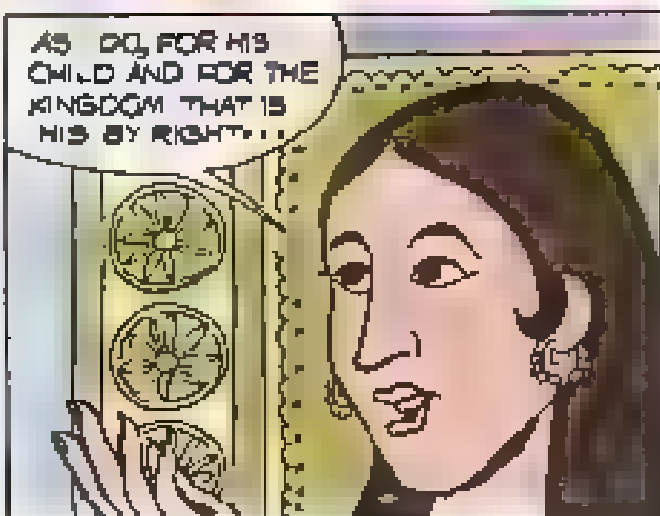
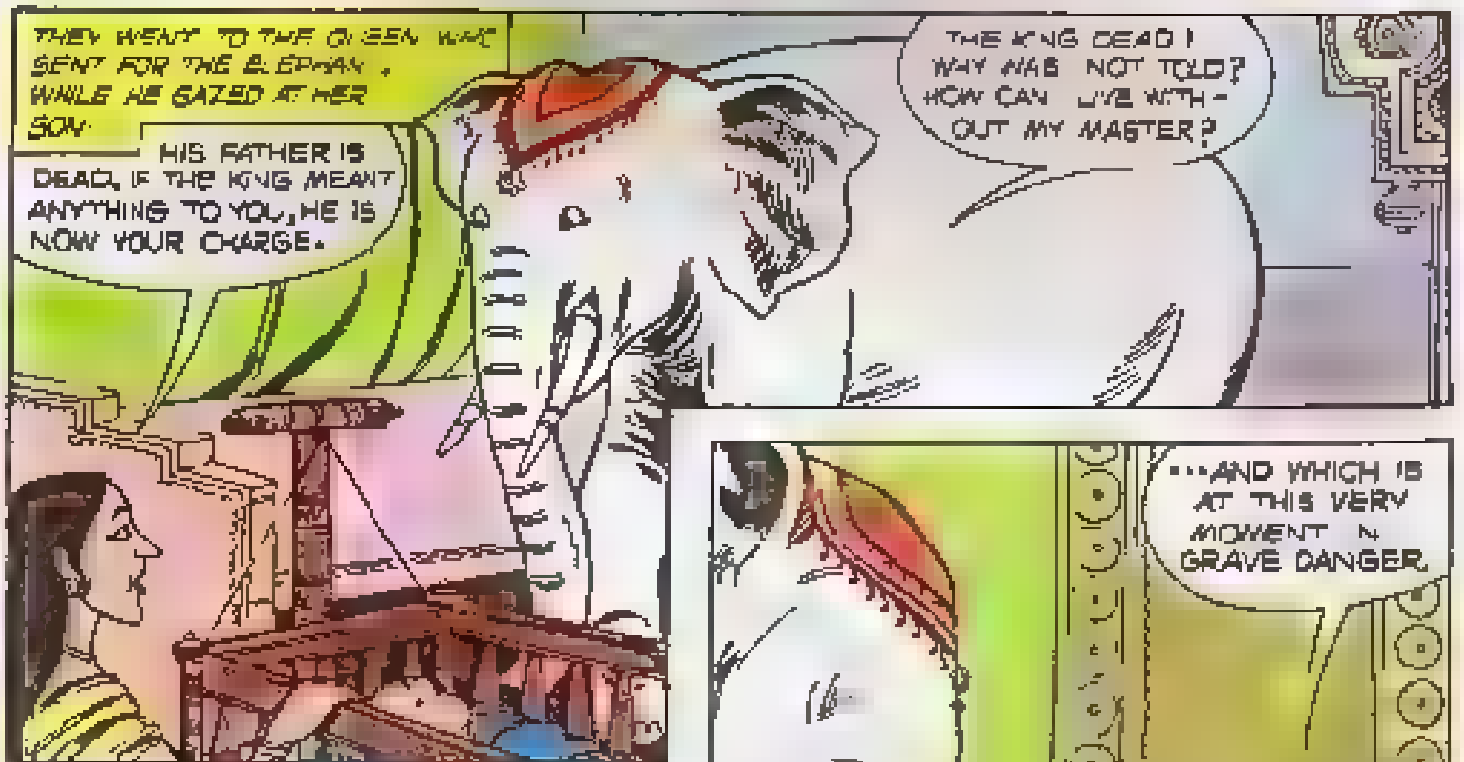
HOW WILL THAT HELP?

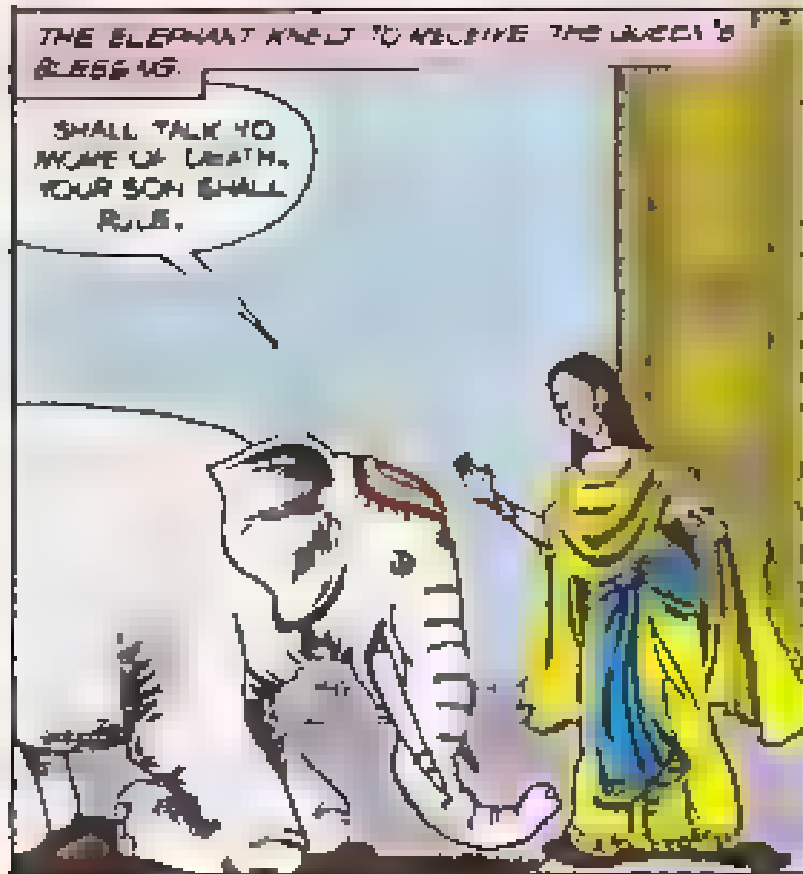


LONG LIVE THE NEW-BORN KING!

FIGHT FOR THE KING! FIGHT TO THE LAST MAN!

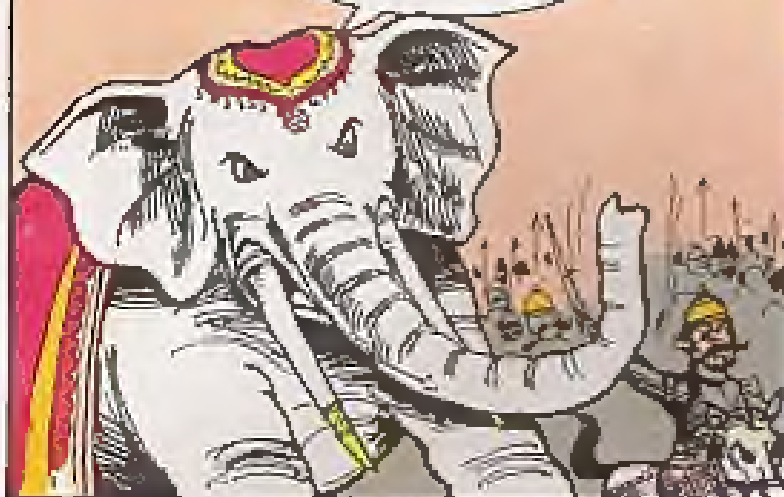






AND THEN THE ELEPHANT CHARGED FORWARD, THE SKIES RESOUNDING WITH HIS MIGHTY TRUMPETING,

PUT COURAGE IN YOUR
HEARTS AND STRENGTH
IN YOUR ARMS!

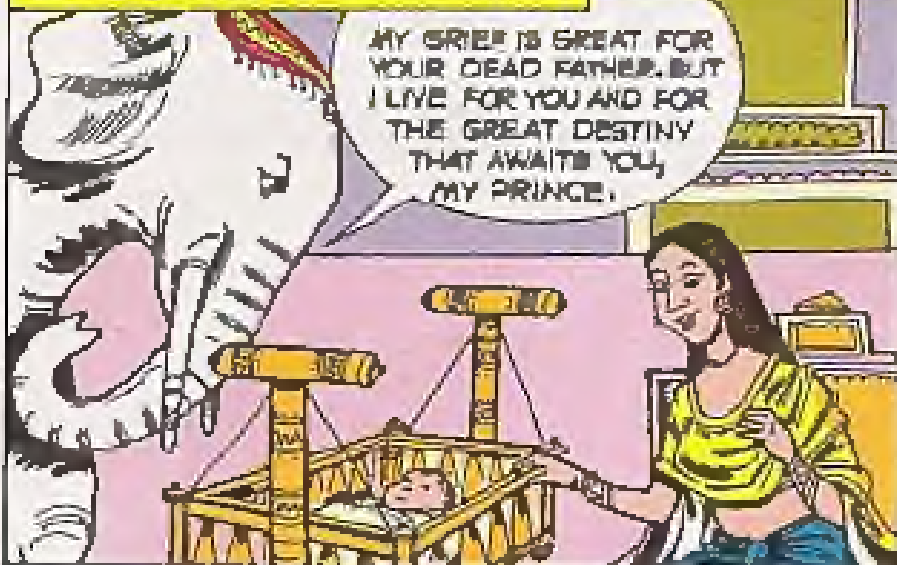


FOLLOW OUR
LEADER, HE IS
DIVINELY
INSPIRED!

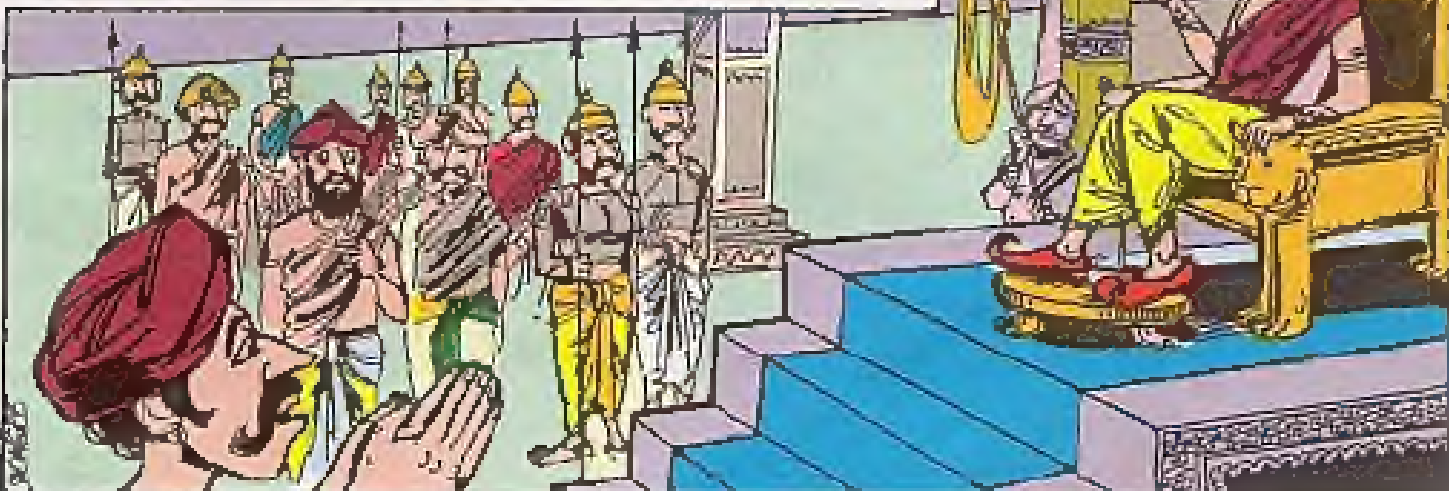


THE KOSALA ARMIES WERE ROUTED, THE BATTLE WON, THE ELEPHANT STOOD BEFORE THE QUEEN, HIS PROUD HEAD BOWED BEFORE HIS INFANT MASTER.

MY GRIEF IS GREAT FOR
YOUR DEAD FATHER, BUT
I LIVE FOR YOU AND FOR
THE GREAT DESTINY
THAT AWAITS YOU,
MY PRINCE.

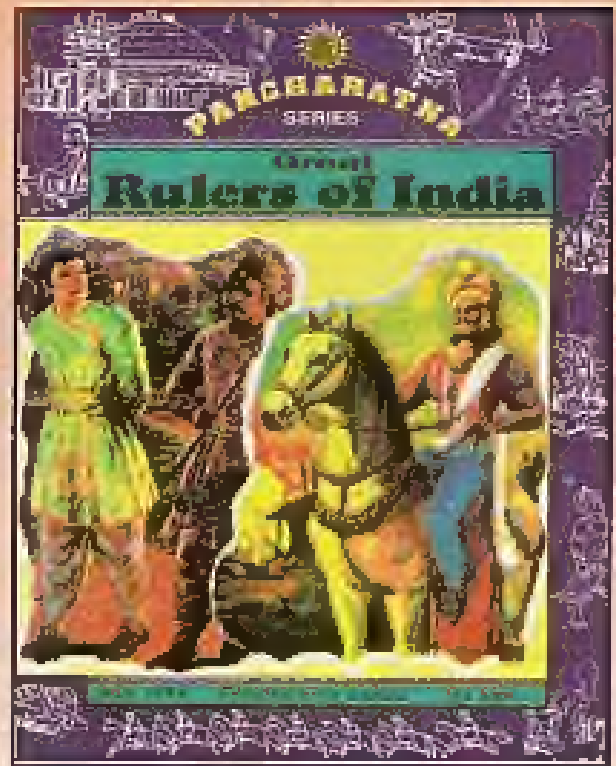
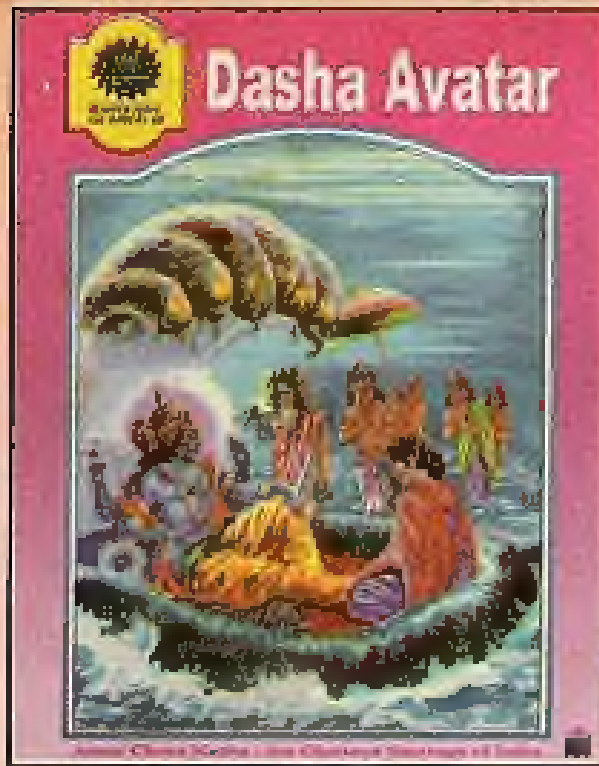


AND THE BODHISATTVA (FOR THE CHILD WAS NONE OTHER THAN HE) GREW UP TO INHERIT A KINGDOM WHICH HE RULED WISELY AND WELL.





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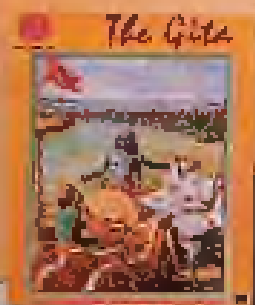
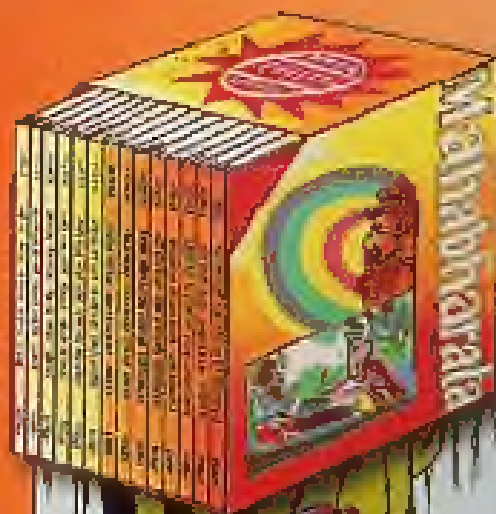
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